

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2007

DICHTEL, BORYS, AND HEINEMANN AWARDS GIVEN AT ANNUAL MEETING

At VECA's annual meeting on January 22, VECA presented its highly-prized annual awards to five very deserving and well-known community figures.

The Richard Borys Award, presented to a civic figure who has made a significant contribution to the efforts of VECA during the past year, was given to Rich Beckwith, of the City's Division of Park Services, for his efforts and expertise over the years in helping us preserve and enhance our neighborhood's trees.

The Margaret Dichtel Award, presented to a neighborhood resident, was given to Jan Kirby and Marci Hendrix, Jan for her work for the V&E Greenline Committee and Marci for her work for Neighbors for Trees.

The Martha Heinemann Award, presented to a Board member, was given to Renate Rosenthal and Andrée Glenn, Renate (of the VECA CDC Board) for her work for the V&E Greenline Committee and Andrée (of the VECA Board) for her work for Neighbors for Trees.

Congratulations and thanks to (from left, in photos) Renate, Andrée, Marci, Jan, and Rich for their many valuable contributions to our neighborhood and organization.



SPRUCE UP OUR GREENLINE

What is "Spruce Up the Greenline"? Supporters and users of the Greenline meet once a month to clean up, rake, maintain, and trim the V&E Greenline path. Since the Greenline depends entirely upon the volunteers, this is the only way to maintain the Greenline.

When and where is it? Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the station-house, 1625 Tutwiler Avenue. The next Spruce Ups are March 10 and April 14.

Spruce Ups are also a good time to bring your donations for future yard sales. This year's yard sale will be June 23.

2006 VECA TREASURER'S REPORT

Following is a summary of the 2006 VECA budget. (All of this is quite separate from the much larger and more complex budget of VECA CDC, which acts as Vollintine-Evergreen's main fiscal agent for grants, donations, etc.) More detailed information can be provided upon request.

Support and Revenue:

\$3,730.00	dues
\$210.00	contributions
\$1,830.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News ads
\$2,182.40	other
\$7,952.40	TOTAL

Expenses:

\$2,815.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News printing
\$1,088.00	VECA Board insurance
\$1,550.00	VECA events
\$2,600.00	Historic plaques (100)
\$1,327.31	reimbursement (awards, fees, postage)
\$9,380.31	TOTAL

Excess of expenses over support and revenue:

\$1,427.91

(Note that the large purchase of plaques will generate revenue over the next several years.)

Total assets:

\$14,098.42

Total liabilities:

\$0

YOUR 2007 VECA BOARD

In accordance with the VECA Bylaws, all Vollintine-Evergreen members attending the January 22 meeting elected the following VECA Board members, as well as the president and vice president. (The VECA Board then selected its secretary and treasurer.)

NORTHWEST QUADRANT:

Janis Cannon (treasurer), Tracy Rowe

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT:

Annette Anderson, Tom McGowan

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT:

Ben Beaird, Chris Floyd (secretary), Bob Hicks (vice president), Scott Moore, Mary Wilder

NORTHEAST QUADRANT:

Nedra Bailey (president), Barbara Coleman, Andrée Glenn, Bettye Johnson

AT-LARGE:

Gloria Fulton Singleton

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Have you ever felt the pain of being violated by a criminal? It hurts! Consider being a part of organizing a new network for Safety and Security. Let's plan to proactively instigate even more crime prevention for the sake of our families and neighbors. If we don't, who will? Call Ben Beaird at 901-726-1903 if you are interested.

TREES AVAILABLE

Several hundred trees – mostly small oaks – may soon be available free, thanks to Shawn Posey, our Regional Forester with the state of Tennessee. If you are interested in getting on the list, call the VECA office at 901-276-1782. Details will be known soon.

JACKSON AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION

On February 28, eight trees were replaced in Jackson Avenue medians. Rich Beckwith and Lynn Hollowell of the City's Park Services were joined by volunteers Eddie Branch and Steve Gadbois. The weather was beautiful that morning, and it rained that night. Perfect!

YOUR 2007 VECA CDC BOARD

In accordance with the CDC Bylaws, last year's VECA Board selected the following CDC Board members. (The CDC Board then selected its chair, vice chair, and secretary.)

NORTHWEST QUADRANT:

Paul Davis, Lilly Gilkey

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT:

Bob Schneider

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT:

Paul Herron (vice chair), Mitchell Spence

NORTHEAST QUADRANT:

Dick Mochow (secretary), Janese Perry, Cassie Rogers, Renate Rosenthal, Tommy Tabor

AT-LARGE:

Bud Richey, Jane Venson (chair)

RHODES COLLEGE RITES TO PLAY COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

On Saturday, April 14, Rhodes College will host its 10th free "Rites to Play Community Carnival". From noon until 3:00 p.m., children of all ages are welcome to join Rhodes College students on the College's front lawn near University Street and North Parkway. Relax, eat, and play -- there will be face painting, a dunk tank, moon bounce, a duck pond, and more. Call Tiffany Merritt at 843-3401 for more information.

CYPRESS CREEK HEALTH COMMITTEE KICK-OFF

The Cypress Creek Health Committee was recently formed to address community concerns about health as a result of possible exposure to cyclodiene pesticides in the soil. In response to this, the Tennessee Department of Health, in partnership with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department (MSCHD) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), sought the assistance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their Exposure Investigation (EI) team.

The first important event has already been scheduled:

a free Community Health Fair
Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Hollywood Community Center (1560 Hollywood)

Numerous agencies will be represented at the health fair and many health tests will be available.

The exposure investigation is scheduled to take about 10 days in early May. Participating residents will have blood tests done by the CDC, and dust collected from certain heavy-traffic areas of their homes will be scientifically analyzed by the EPA. The exposure investigation will help the health departments as well as the committee determine the extent of exposure in the Cypress Creek communities and to determine next steps.

The Cypress Creek Health Committee consists of members from the surrounding neighborhoods, community organizations, universities, and state/local health departments. Meetings will be held monthly, normally on the first Monday. If you would like more information on this committee, its activities, or its upcoming meetings, contact Calondra Tibbs of MSCHD at 901-544-7717.

CYPRESS SCHOOL ALUMNI

In September, past and present students and faculty of Cypress Middle School paid tribute to Dr. James A. "Jake" Barber, the school's first principal. The event was a huge success. Its theme was celebrating the tradition and legacy of pride in and excellence of its teams, the Timberwolves.

The Cypress Junior High Alumni Association has purchased uniforms for the cheerleading, football, and basketball teams; sponsored basketball homecoming events; and rededicated the gym in honor of Jake Barber. In a joint effort with current principal Raymond Vasser and his staff at Cypress, a mentor program has been formed. The program needs volunteers to help serve over 400 students. We hope to expose our students to all cultural aspects of society.

Do you have time to patrol hallways or to tutor a student? Do you have any special skills, resources, suggestions, or ideas? We look forward to working with you. Please come by the school or call Raymond Vasser at 416-4524 or Teddy King at 262-6017.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT A FINALIST FOR TEACHING AWARD

Vollintine-Evergreen resident Kay Jordan, a teacher at the City's Double Tree Elementary School, has been named as one of two state finalists for this year's prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for K-12 teaching in these fields. Kay obtained her National Board Certification earlier this year and will find out this spring if she has been chosen for the award. Awardees will receive a citation signed by the President, a paid trip to Washington D.C., and \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation.

DEALING SUCCESSFULLY WITH CONTRACTORS

Virtually every homeowner eventually needs to hire a contractor to perform some work, whether that work is a minor repair or a major rehab. Getting your work completed can be exciting or distressing, depending on how you select and retain a contractor. Following are some important general DOs and DON'Ts.

DO:

Do decide on the main elements of the work you want done before you contact any contractor.

Do find potential contractors from sources you trust.

Do get written bids from several contractors, for comparable services.

Do check that each contractor is licensed, bonded, and insured. *Licensed* suggests being qualified and regulated; *bonded* makes it much more likely that unforeseen damage will be fixed; *insured* means that the contractor's employees have workers comp insurance in case of on-the-job-injury. Be sure to get (don't just see) copies of current certificates!

Do consider checking with the local Better Business Bureau for any complaints against a contractor. But be aware that having no record with the BBB is by itself neither good nor bad.

Do make sure you understand and agree to everything in a contract before you sign it. Later if you must, you can propose changes, and if the contractor agrees, both of you can initial the written-in changes.

Do have a written contract signed by both parties, including

- (a) the detailed scope of work;
- (b) the total price of the job and the payment schedule;
- (c) deadlines for the job and possibly for parts of it;
- (d) a clear list of the materials, items, and labor – if any – that you will provide;
- (e) a list of any other subcontractors and their scopes of work, with a clear delineation of who will hire, supervise, and pay them;
- (f) the process for making changes (“change orders”) during the job.

Do expect to make an initial payment, ordinarily 20%-30% of the total cost.

Do carefully check each day's progress, preferably after the workers have finished and left. Do some basic cleanup, enough to help the workers and set the tone, but not so much as to interfere with the workers or make them uncomfortable.

Do communicate about all important matters only through your contractor, not your contractor's workers or subcontractors.

Do take photographs during the entire process, especially photographs of wiring and plumbing before it is covered up. Be sure to label and date them.

DON'T:

Don't automatically assume that the lowest bid is the best bid.

Don't question your contractor's estimated costs for individual items after your contract is signed; you should only be concerned with the total cost. Normally, it is solely the contractor's business when individual items cost more or less than originally estimated.

Don't make “side deals” with anyone working for your contractor, especially deals involving money.

Don't hang around too closely while your contractor's workers work. Give them space!

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, vecacdc@vecacdc.org
Mayor's Citizens Service Center	576-6500
Property Code Enforcement	576-7380 www.memphistn.gov/HCDWeb/content/reportcomplaint.aspx
Construction Code Enforcement	379-4200
Litter Hotline	52CLEAN
Police North Precinct (north of Jackson)	377-3700
Police West Precinct (south of Jackson)	274-7012
Police Reports	545-2650
Memphis Mayor's Office	576-6000
Memphis City Council	576-6786
Memphis Board of Education	416-5300
Center for Neighborhoods	576-4236
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 Election Commission	545-4125
Shelby County Assessor of Property	379-7333
Memphis Area Legal Services	432-4663
Memphis Light Gas and Water	544-6549

RECYCLING PILFERING

Vollintine-Evergreen residents have recently asked about the too-common practice of picking cans out of curbside recycling bins before pickup. According to City ordinance, it is illegal:

“Recycling bin’ means any container distributed or designated by the city for use as a repository for recyclable materials, the materials to be collected by the city or its designee.

“No person, other than the owner or person lawfully in control of any premises, or any authorized employee of the city or an authorized employees of a person licensed by the city for the collection or removal of solid waste or recyclable materials, shall interfere in any manner with a container used for the accumulation or handling of solid waste or recyclable materials or remove any such container from the location where it shall have been placed by the owner or person in control of the premises nor shall any such person remove the contents from any such container.”

The City's Division of Solid Waste will take reports of these activities. A license plate number of a car is preferable, while a description of the person may also be useful. The Division will send a letter to anyone so identified. If that doesn't end it, the police may get involved.

If You're Looking For That Favorite Little Neighborhood Bar—Stop By And See Us At



Alex's Tavern
1445 Jackson Ave. • 278-9086

Proud To Be A Part Of The VECA Neighborhood For Over 40 Years—Since 1953!

- Coldest Beer In Memphis
- Great Burgers
- Four Big-Screen TV's & Satellite Sports

Voted "Best Jukebox In Memphis" And "Best Bar In Memphis"

Shades
Cornices
Window Treatments

Valances
Upholstery
Faux Finishes
Japanese Screen (Fabric)

Interiors By Fulton

Custom Designs on Walls, Furniture, & Fabrics

GLORIA SINGLETON PH: (901) 521-1111

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.

V&E Greenline Yard Sale	June 23 (Stationhouse)
Summer Jubilee Ice Cream Social	June 24 (Greenline, TBA)
National Night Out	August 7
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.
Safety and Security Committee	Being formed; call office to help
Cypress Creek Committee	Call office
Historic Committee	Call office
Youth Committee	Call office
Neighbors for Trees	Third Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
V&E Greenline Committee	Second Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (but not July or December)
V&E Greenline Spruce Up	Second Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.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	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	March 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	April 2, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For Sale

By
VECA CDC

New Construction

962 Maury Street (\$89,900)
950 University (under contract)
956 University (under contract)
More to come soon!

Rehab

2218 Hunter Avenue (\$49,900)

Contact Steve Gadbois
or Ruth Gibson
at 276-1782



VECA Neighbor Since 1987

Garnette Stephens, ABR, CRS, GRI
REALTOR

Buying, selling, or relocating?
For the professional, personal service you deserve,
let me be your Realtor!

Experience	Knowledge	Integrity
Keller Williams Realty	1255 Lynnfield #100, Memphis, TN 38119	
Office: 261-7900	Mobile: 848-1937	garnettestephens@kw.com

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
Aisha Swauncy	Office Assistant

McNease Brothers GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- Contractual Agreements
- Landscape Renovation
- Mulch Work • Shrub Sculpture
- Tiller work • Mowing • Fescue Seeding
- New Landscaping

937-1317

Keep This Flyer! You May Need the Help!

Vollintine Evergreen Office

1680 Jackson Avenue ■ Memphis, TN 38107
901-276-1782 phone ■ 901-276-1784 fax

email

veca@vecacdc.org
and
vecacdc@vecacdc.org

websites

www.veca-neighborhood.org
www.vgreenline.org