Lick Creek Update

The independent consultant Tetra Tech has completed its Technical Review of the Lick Creek drainage basin. This review included the City of Memphis 2006 study of the Lick Creek Basin, a public meeting with extensive input from the community, a field trip review of the basin, meetings with City of Memphis Divisions Public Works and Engineering, and conversations with community representatives from the Lick Creek Storm Water Coalition. The report is ready for release and a public meeting will be held as soon as possible.

The City’s early study had called for detention in five to six areas. One of the detention areas has been completed at Christian Brothers. The St. Peters Campus has a second project awaiting for implementation. Snowden and Evergreen playing fields on Tutwiler were other proposed areas. The independent study is looking at nine scenarios for detention including the St. Peters and Snowden detention areas. The recognition that the flooding problem in the basin is not located in one area is very important. Detention works for the area closest to it and then the creek and the area pick up more storm water in a rain event and there is a need for detention further down the line of Lick Creek. Planned maintenance and repair of the Lick Creek system was not directly addressed, but comments were submitted to ask for maintenance and repair of the Lick Creek system. Two meetings were held to review the draft in VECA. Several of the Lick Creek coalition groups met as well and submitted comments.

The Lick Creek Storm Water Coalition members are VECA; Evergreen Historic; Cooper Young; Bellaire; neighbors from Hein Park; The Zoo; Park Friends; Citizens to Protect Overton Park; Memphis College of Art; The Brooks; Memphis Heritage; and Clean Memphis.

VECA has its own standing committee that works on issues relating to flooding and maintenance and related to Lick Creek. To join or get information contact veca@veca.org.

2nd Annual Dumpster Day

Memphis City Beautiful is sponsoring VECA’s 2nd Annual Dumpster Day on Saturday, May 14. The event has two components. First: There will be a dumpster at the VECA parking lot where VECA neighbors can throw away items. Second: There will also be target clean-ups in the neighborhood. A Third Bonus component would be if your street coordinates a clean-up as well!

Lots of volunteers are needed. Please sign up at veca@veca.org or call 901.276.1782. We need folks to help supervise clean-ups; drive trucks from the clean-up sites to bring trash to the dumpsters; and assist with the neighbors bringing trash to the dumpster.

As you think of what you would like to dump into the dumpster, please consider the following list:

Not Acceptable in the dumpster:
- Hazardous waste
- All liquids
- Toxic waste
- Radioactive material
- Acidic waste
- Gasoline
- Freon
- Asbestos
- Tires
- Refrigerators
- Medical waste
- Paint
- Auto parts
- Motor oil
- Dead animals
- Ballast from florescent light bulbs

Acceptable in the dumpster:
- Construction materials
- Furniture
- Appliances (with no refrigerants)
- Trash ( household)
- Rocks
- Bricks/Concrete
- Carpet
- Non-hazardous materials
- Roofing
- Wood
- Fencing
- New construction materials
- Clothes
- Paper
- Cardboard
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
Art & Bible Camp
June 20-24, 2011
9 a.m. until noon
Age 4 years to 4th grade
Cost: $50, sibling discount $10
Midtown Memphis
613 University (across from Rhodes College)
Register online at www.evergreenmemphis.org or call 274-3740 for more information.

VECA Poster and Note Cards
$10 for poster ($20 if mailed)
$20 for signed poster and
$40 for a framed poster
The poster is 17x21
Also available are
VECA note card sets
Set of 20 Note Cards and Envelopes;
5 each of 4 designs
Available at 1680 Jackson Ave
901.276.1782 veca@veca.org

Framed House History
VECA Historic Committee Fundraiser
Celebrate your historic home with a unique gift idea! Featured will be the historic description of the home along with a photograph of the home. Please allow 30 days to process the order. Three sizes are available: $15, $20 and $25.
The order form is online at veca.org. You may also call the Welcome Center, 901.276.1782 for an order form or email veca@veca.org to request an order form.

A Student Intern Perspective
By Maura Weber
For the last four years I have worked as a Community Development Intern at VECA while attending Rhodes. Throughout my time here I have done lots of different projects that have allowed me to become familiar with many aspects of the neighborhood. I have learned so much from the neighborhood and working with the compassionate and hard-working volunteers.

I often had the opportunity to conduct surveys in order to understand exactly where problems were located and what needed to be done. While this was difficult to do as an outsider, I felt that this work was important for the betterment of the community even if that meant having to earn respect among the neighbors.

As a freshman, I spent my first summer writing and compiling articles for the Vollintine-Evergreen Newsletter. Now nearing graduation, I am once again working on the newsletter, and let me tell you, a lot has changed. Four years ago, I was more or less writing the newsletter single-handedly in Dr. Kirby’s Rhodes College office with limited input from the neighborhood. While I did get out and talk to people and try to get them more involved, it was still very much only a few people’s input. Now more volunteers contribute and I only write one article an issue allowing me more time for updating the website and working with the neighborhood emails.

The number of volunteers who have recently become involved is simply amazing. Within the last year I have seen more neighborhood sponsored clean-ups than I ever imagined. The number of new faces at the meetings and events, however, would not be possible without the strong and dedicated core of VECA board members.

As a neighborhood, Vollintine-Evergreen has always been a strong community, however to see it continue to improve over the course of only four years makes me very hopeful for the future. With the help of VECA and the community at large, people in and outside the area are seeing Vollintine-Evergreen in a whole new light. There is less crime, businesses are doing well, and new people continue moving into the neighborhood. I am so impressed with what all the board members, volunteers and neighbors have accomplished over the last four years.

Although I am sad to leave VECA and all the great people whom I have met, I am excited to see the neighborhood where it is today and I know it will only be better the next time I come visit.

VECA is grateful for the opportunity to work with all of the student interns! We wish Maura the best as she begins a new chapter in her life upon graduation.

In the Heart of Memphis
James Elliott, D.D.S.
Dentistry with a Gentle touch
10 S. Belvedere
276-7042
Belvedere Blvd at Madison Ave

Jared Powelson, OD
Mike Gerstner, OD

VECA Historic Committee Fundraiser
Framed House History
Celebrate your historic home with a unique gift idea! Featured will be the historic description of the home along with a photograph of the home. Please allow 30 days to process the order. Three sizes are available: $15, $20 and $25.
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A House That VECA Built

By Maura Weber
From 1996-2005 VECA, functioning as a community development corporation (CDC), built and rehabilitated many homes in the neighborhood. While VECA is no longer doing such work, the memories that these homes helped create continue.

Rose Folson bought her VECA home five years ago, coming from the Klondike area. As a mother of ten, her adult children who were helping her relocate, liked the VECA neighborhood and the nice house for their mother. The home, with its high ceilings and three bedrooms gives Rose, who is 83 now, a nice, spacious place where all her grandkids can come visit her.

Rose was born in Water Valley, Mississippi, and came to Memphis in 1860 with her husband and children. Raised on a farm, she was a sharecropper and would pick 200 pounds of cotton a day. While she no longer has those long, labor intensive days on the farm, Rose has not slowed down too much. Within the five years she has lived on Brown, she has acquired the title of the 'Mayor' of the street.

She is up and out every day sweeping the sidewalks or cutting the grass on vacant lots. She and Barbara Gavalas, her neighbor, work hard to maintain the cleanliness of their street.

When she is not working in the yard, one can find Rose working in her garden or sitting on her porch ‘supervising’ the area. Rose says that she loves her home and especially the neighborhood which she was familiar with prior to moving here. She notes that her previous neighborhood in Klondike did not respond as well to her crusade for a cleaner street and neighborhood. She has gotten many on the street to keep their home and street nice and safe.

While VECA can no longer support many of the operations of the CDC (community development corporation), it is clear that the work they did has made a lasting impression. VECA was able to provide Rose Folsom and her family with a safe and beautiful home and now Rose is giving back to the neighborhood on her own street. Rose is truly an asset to our community.

ENews For You!

Submitted by the VECA Communications Team
VECA is excited to introduce the VECA Weekly ENews, a new communications tool for the Vollintine-Evergreen area. The VECA Weekly ENews is where you can advertise your yard sales, list items for sale or giveaway, or plug an upcoming event, for example.

To prepare for the launch of the ENews, the Communications Committee met with Evergreen neighbor, Chris Morton, who shared with us the Evergreen Historic District’s enews story. We are modeling our effort after their successful process. The first ENews launched on Thursday, April 21.

A detailed description of the guidelines for the VECA Weekly ENews is available on the VECA website (veca.org/veca-weekly-enews-guidelines). As with anything new, there may be tweaking along the way. When this happens, we will update the guidelines on the website for you.

If you have an upcoming yard sale, plants to give away, an event to promote, please email us at news@veca.org.

Please help us spread the word by asking your neighbors and friends to sign up to receive the VECA Weekly ENews. They can sign-up via the VECA website (veca.org).

Signing up to receive the VECA ENews is the best way to stay up-to-date on current events in the neighborhood.
The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Submitted by Claire Atkins
Formed in 1865 in the Chelsea district of Memphis, the Church of the Good Shepherd has been a part of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood since moving to our present location in 1942. We are the little red brick church on the corner of Jackson Avenue and University Street and we may be just what you have been looking for if you are searching for a place that will enable you to grow more deeply connected to God in your life.

We worship each Sunday with a communion service at 7:30am and another service at 10:30am. We also have a short weekday communion service each Wednesday morning at 10:30am in the chapel.

We are a community created by God’s covenant with us. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah sent from God, our Father, to free us from the power of sin. With Jesus Christ as Lord of our life, we can live in harmony with God…within ourselves, with our neighbors and with all of creation. God is our Creator. He loves us and we can all respond to His love. He created a universe that is good and has called us to enjoy and care for the world in accordance with His purpose for mankind. All of us are worthy of respect and honor and all are created equal in the image of God.

As you pass by, you can see the American flag proudly waving over our church. The bell of freedom is on our front lawn. You are always welcome to join us, share fellowship and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. You will find a new birth of life with our Lord’s presence. Come and see.

Church of the Good Shepherd ~ 1971 Jackson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38107 ~ (901)725-9768
www.churchofthegoodshepherd.us

Friday, May 20, 2011 is Bike to Work Day
Meet 7:00 AM at the V&E Greenline Gardens (at Idlewild)

Memphis is participating in the nationwide Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20, 2011. Supported locally by the Center City Corporation (CCC), Memphis is encouraging everyone who is able and works in the downtown area to bike to work on Friday, May 20. If you sign up via their link, you will receive fun swag: www.downtownmemphis.com/biketowork

In our neighborhood, a group will ride together to the medical center area and then onto downtown. Meet Friday, May 20 at 7:00 am at the V&E Greenline Gardens (at Idlewild - between McLean and Auburndale).

To prepare for this, an informational and bike safety meeting was held at the VECA Welcome Center on Tuesday, May 3.

Bob Rogers is our Vollintine-Evergreen neighbor coordinating this effort. For more information, contact him at: bobr58@bellsouth.net 901.508.7429.

To learn more about the national bike events in May, go to: www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/
Lights, Camera, Action!!!
Several filmmakers call Vollentine-Evergreen home

By Jeff Hulett
Living in the VECA neighborhood has taught me a couple of things.
Our neighborhood is absolutely gorgeous. Every twist and turn offers so much color and unique design, and exploring on foot or bicycle always leads to uncovering something new and intriguing.

There is no shortage of talented people. From University to Watkins – Tutwiler to Jackson, there are tons of musicians, artists and creative people that make up our neighborhood.

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing 3 VECA neighbors whose passion is filmmaking. I asked them all of the same questions and just allowed them to wax poetic about their craft.

Here’s what they had to say:

First up is Liz Daggett…

**How long have you been a filmmaker?**
Seven years.

What types of films do you like to make?
Documentary and experimental.

**Who are your influences?**
D. A. Pennebaker, Ricky Leacock, the Maysles, Alfred Hitchcock, Errol Morris, Maya Deren, and William Kentridge.

Next up is Morgan Jon Fox…

**How long have you been a filmmaker?**
I've been making films since I could hold a camera. When other kids wanted to be a fireman or policeman, I was making short films with my sisters or my dogs. It wasn't until I enrolled in the film program at the University of Memphis that I fully realized the potential of my dream. I made a short film for my senior project. It was accepted in a few film festivals, and I've never looked back.

**What types of films do you like to make?**
I make non-fictional, character-based films that deal with everyday problems. People are so fascinating, and there are so many great stories out there. I can't imagine ever needing to write a fictional script. The last film I completed, called Open 5, is about two couples experiencing a weekend around Memphis. The whole film is infused with the interesting experiences and funny interactions I’ve had in my time here.

**Who are your influences?**
Definitely Wes Anderson. He’s such an icon for independent films. Ever since seeing Bottle Rocket in high school, I was hooked.

Which filmmakers are most influential to you?
They are so fascinating, and there are so many great stories out there. I can’t imagine ever needing to write a fictional script. The last film I completed, called Open 5, is about two couples experiencing a weekend around Memphis. The whole film is infused with the interesting experiences and funny interactions I’ve had in my time here.

**What are you working on these days?**
I’m currently trying to complete a film that has become quite a labor of love. It’s a sequel to my last film, Open 5. It’s a road-trip movie, with Memphis still representing a big part of the plot. I’ve been working with some really talented people to complete it, and I’m actually going to be filming in the VECA neighborhood for the film in the next few weeks.

**What do you like most about living in the VECA neighborhood?**
I love how much of a cross-section of culture and people this neighborhood is. You never feel like there’s a “type;” it’s almost impossible to describe the people who live in the VECA as a whole. Other neighborhoods like Cooper-Young seem so caught up in the “hype” of being young, hip, or artistic. It’s great to meet so many people with such a spectrum of backgrounds. It’s really inspiring as a filmmaker.

**Where can people check out your work?**
I started a new website called nobudgetfilms.com for films that are made with basically no budget. I put up new ones, including some of my own, every week. My first feature film, called Team Picture, is also available on Netflix.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?**
I backpacked around Shanghai for 6 months before beginning school at University of Memphis.
Accidents and Child Safety

By Garnette Stephens

Did you know accidents are the leading cause of death and disability to children age 14 and younger? Accidents kill and disable more children than kidnapping, drugs, and disease cause 1 in 4 children to be hurt badly enough to require a doctor’s care? How can this be true when most accidents can be predicted and prevented?

Nine Leading Risk Areas and Safety Tips:

Car Accidents: Safety seats and belts, when property used, do protect children. Only 78% of Memphis children are buckled! Safe Kids Buckle Up Hotline: 1-800-215-SEAT.

- Buckle up! No seat belts, no drive! www.usa.safekids.org
- No texting or using the phone when driving.

Drowning: In Memphis, nearly 90% of African American youth and 56% of Hispanic youth cannot swim (University of Memphis research 2008).

- Promote swimming lessons and lifeguard training. www.makesasplashmidsouth.org
- Know if swimming pools are secured to keep children out of pools when closed or no lifeguard or other responsible adult present.
- Promote education about child safety.

Firearm Injuries: 1 in 4 homes has a firearm.

- Promote swimming lessons and lifeguard training. www.makesaplashmidsouth.org
- Know if swimming pools are secured to keep children out of pools when closed or no lifeguard or other responsible adult present.
- Promote education about child safety.

Fire: Memphis has a high child fire-death rate. Common causes include: Playing with matches, faulty wiring, and unsafe cooking habits. Most fatalities occur where there is no smoke alarm and where there are barriers for safe escape. Often children are left unsupervised.

- Visit the Fire Museum. www.firemuseum.com
- Support your neighborhood fire station.
- Ask local firefighters for safety tips.

Sports injuries:

- Teach children 911. firstaid.about.com

Home Injuries: Children under age 6 are the most frequent victims. The home is a gold mine for poisonings and other potential hazards (e.g., receptacles, appliances, shelves, stairs, etc.). Common cause of poisonings at home: medications, cleaning products, makeup, and plants.

- Post Poison Center number for quick reference 24/7: 1-800-222-1222.
- Childproof your home. www.webmd.com/parenting/childproof-home

- Make sure the day care center, schools, and wherever the children are provided a childproof environment.
- Supervise children at all times.

Pedestrian injuries: Distracted drivers create an unsafe environment for children. Most children cannot cross the street alone. Their age and size put them at risk.

- Encourage children to cross with crossing guards.

- Teach children safe and proper ways to cross streets.

School injuries: Injury on the playground is the most common at school with falls from playground equipment accounting for 80% of the injuries. Bullying is becoming more common.

- Advocate loose surface play areas, especially around stationary equipment.
- Facilitate CPR and emergency first aid training for school staff.
- Advocate reporting of bullying and appropriate disciplinary and legal action for bullies. www.mcsk12.net/policies

Wheeled sports: Bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except the automobile. Helmets decrease the risk of head injury by 85% and severe brain injury by 89% (Rivera 1989). The rate of bicycle helmet use in Memphis is approximately 20% for children age 14 and under.

- Promote bicycle safety: use of helmets, maintenance of bicycles, use of bicycle safety features such as reflectors, and “rules of the road.”
- Encourage city officials to provide safe bicycle routes.

We Can Have an Impact!

- Start in your home! Use the Family Safety Checklist available at veca.org
- Raise awareness: Find teachable moments and use simple messages.
- Assess readiness to learn: Can families do what’s needed?
- Determine if it is an individual family issue or community issue (code or regulatory issue)? Are there resources?
- Check out www.lebonnheur.org/safekids.

Look for Alex’s Tavern in the movie The Grace Card.
Garbage and Recycling Services

Article By: VECA Neighborhood Preservation Committee
Residents are required to remove their garbage containers and recycling bins from the curb by 7:30 p.m. the same day as their collection. Garbage containers and recycling bins cannot be stored on the curb and should be stored out of public view. Residents should remove garbage carts and recycling bins from the curb because:

- It is the law (Memphis Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9-56).
- Leaving garbage carts on the curb is unattractive.
- Garbage carts can obstruct the view when neighbors pull out of their driveways.
- Garbage carts often block the sidewalk.
- Vagrants are likely to go through the trash and recyclables.

Additional reminders and tips:
- Residents must have a trash container for proper disposal of their garbage. Residents can lease additional containers by contacting Solid Waste Management at (901) 576-6851.
- Recycle appropriate items including paper, plastics, aluminum, glass, and paperboard.
- Leaves and yard clippings should be placed in bags for pickup. It is illegal to dump or blow leaves and clippings in street drains. This can cause flooding in the neighborhood. To report illegal dumping of yard waste, call (901) 576-6721.

For more information, please see http://memphistn.gov/framework.aspx?page=672 or contact Solid Waste Management at (901) 576-6851.

The Story of the V&E Greenline Garden

By Mary Wilder
Once upon a time in 1983 the CSX Railroad abandoned the rail line that ran from Raleigh to downtown Memphis through Vollintine-Evergreen. VECA asked the city to rail bank the land for a community trail, or more commonly called a rails to trails. It did not happen. The abandoned space became overgrown and a place for “nefarious” activity. In 1990 neighbors started riding their mowers down the old bed and creating a path. This was the section between McLean and Auburndale. MLGW was mowing the area west to Sears and North Parkway. Going east, the old bed was heavily shaded and the path stayed somewhat clear. Further east to Springdale it was very overgrown and thick with growth. The neighborhood eventually acquired the property in 1996. The open area along McLean to Auburndale was easy to take care of by neighbors. Charlotte Swailes started planting trees. Slowly the area filled in. It is now referred to as the Arbors section because of the tree canopy. After the ice storm of February 1994 there were plenty of fallen tree trunks to outline flower beds at Idlewild and Hawthorne. Gardening started that year.

Because the rail line is over 150 years old there is an accumulation of chemicals used by the railroad to control weeds that has made vegetable gardening inadvisable. So the beds became perennial flower beds. Perennials are flowers that come back each year. There are also self-seeding flowers that come back each year.

Later railroad ties replaced the fallen tree trunks to outline the bed. The gardens are of two management styles: one uses a no till lasagna garden method where soil is layered and plants planted in the newest layer. The other is a combination of that method and of tilling and replanting.

Volunteers installed water lines early in 1996 to help water the gardens. There is now a third garden; a small but effective Monarch way station, planted in host plants for the caterpillars.

All of the work is done by volunteers and the plant materials and the water are paid for by volunteers.

If you see us out stop and talk we love to share our love of the garden.
VECA Pushing Beyond With Plough

By Rebecca Williams
When asked recently what VECA was, and what it stood for, I took a second to think. Soon after, the following words came with ease. VECA is an organization that has a niche for helping the diverse voices that make up the neighborhood, tap into their own power to work collectively to create a desirable living space for all the residents of this community. These words flowed so easily because I am a constant witness to examples of this in my interactions with VECA residents.

It is the passion with which VECA residents fight to promote pride and awareness about their neighborhood that excites me. When thinking of what this passion – when paired with resources offered through available Plough grants – is capable of accomplishing, it is an understatement to say that VECA is on the brink of great things.

Whether it be the clean-ups, community gardens, block club efforts, Lick Creek storm drain awareness, V&E Greenline events and upkeep, newsletter or any number of activities that VECA is responsible for, there is a constant effort by VECA residents to take an active stand in the welfare of their community. What is most important, is that they constantly desire new ideas and voices just in case they can reach further than they have already.

In this idea, arises the challenge! I challenge you to join the movement! Apply for a Plough grant today, and make the things you wish were happening into a reality. The ball is in your court!

Rebecca Williams,
Plough Community Development Intern
Rhodes College

For assistance, questions and concerns about the Leadership Development Grants:
Call 901.276.1782 (VECA); Call 901.843.3280 (Rhodes)
Go to the VECA Welcome Center, 1680 Jackson
Email: veca@veca.org

Applications available on the VECA website: veca.org

The Time to APPLY is NOW!
Let us know how we can help!

VECA Annual Membership Form - Become a Member
Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen be the great neighborhood it is! Dues are tax deductible.

Name ___________________________ Address ___________________________
Phone __________________________ Email ____________________________

Be one of the following types of team members:
Member $20  •  Neighbor $30  •  Supporter $50  •  Leader $100  •  Champion $500  •  Benefactor $1000
$30 or more: Historic Plaque____ or Poster____ or Notecards____ or Bumper Sticker____

VECA: Vollintine Evergreen Community Association
VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA email, the annual meeting, and committee activities are ways in which VECA communicates with its residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. The VECA area is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA Housing: Chuck Fox
Lick Creek: Mary Wilder
Historic Committee: Cathy Marcinko
Communications: Marci Hendrix
Neighborhood Network: Gloria Singleton
Email: veca@veca.org  Website and Calendar: veca.org
901.276.1782  Fax: 901.276.1784  1680 Jackson Ave

V&E Greenline: Len Cobb
VECA Businesses: TBA
Safety and Security: Garnette Stephens
Neighborhood Preservation: Chris Floyd
VECA Board and Fundraising: Paul Herron

Newsletter Deadlines for the July Issue
The V&E News is printed bimonthly
Article submissions needed by June 1
Advertising copy needed by June 1
Distribution begins July 1
Advertising: $150 annually; $50 one-time ads

Please send submissions and questions to news@veca.org

CyberWatch, a Blue Crush program, provides useful information about public safety and additional ways to communicate with the Memphis Police Department. Go to: www.memphispolice.org and sign up by clicking on the CyberWatch logo.