The V&E Greenline completed the V&amp;E stationhouse walkway when Keeler Ironworks installed handrails, the final part of the two-year project. The handrails were an artistic creation with the V&amp;E Greenline logo and decorative leaves on the handrails. In addition, Keeler Ironworks built an iron logo that fits onto the side of the stationhouse and clearly identifies the building. Dozens of trail users have commented about the beauty of the new artwork that made the stationhouse look like a fabulous facility.

Both the handrails and logo were a gift to the V&amp;E Greenline from Keeler Ironworks. This is the fourth project that Keeler has done for the Greenline. Previous projects were the Lick Creek Bridge, Keeler Bridge, and grading of several Greenline sections. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Keeler Ironworks – they have made a huge difference in improving the quality of the V&amp;E Greenline.

The Greenline has commissioned a plaque created by the Metal Museum to thank all of those that made the walkway possible: Hyde Family Foundations, Keeler Ironworks and Ritchey Smith Associates.
VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Gethsemane Garden
1740 Vollintine Avenue

Saturday, January 23, 2016
9:00-10:00 am Potluck Breakfast
10:00-11:15 am Annual Meeting & Elections

Bring your favorite breakfast food to share
VECA will provide coffee and juice

It’s that time of year again to gather and socialize at our annual neighborhood meeting. Your annual membership contributions generate about $8,000 each year; all of your generous donations go directly back into the community towards the Welcome Center for neighborhood meetings, VECA-sponsored events, and all of our volunteer projects. VECA is a grassroots organization that is 100% volunteer-run; our 17 member board is elected by you – the residents – to help guide our work. Vollintine Evergreen residents consciously take pride in our neighborhood by making monetary donations to VECA and volunteering their time. We invite all residents to get involved in helping to maintain and develop our beautiful historic neighborhood!

V&E ARTWALK
Saturday, April 23, 2016
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
For more information: www.vegreenline.org

VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM – BECOME A MEMBER
Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen continue to be the great neighborhood it is! Dues are tax deductible.

Name __________________________ Address ________________________

Phone _______________________ Email ______________________

Be one of the following types of team members:

Membership $25 • Family/ Household Membership $35 • 45th Anniversary/ Gift Membership $45 •
Neighbor $75 • Leader $100 • Other _____

VECA Annual Membership Form – Become a Member

Rental Office Space for Nonprofits
$300/Month
At VECA Welcome Center

Office shared by three small nonprofits
Plenty of parking • Located on a visible street
Building has security system • Nonprofit use must be compatible with VECA use

Access to internet • FAX available • Reasonable use of utilities included •
VECA-approved office decoration • Lockable office door • Large meeting room
adjacent to office for meetings and events • Kitchen available for light entertaining •
Recently remodeled

The Welcome Center is a multi-use facility serving the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood • VECA is a neighborhood organization. For more information about VECA, see veca.org

1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107
For more information, call 901-276-1782 or email: veca901@gmail.com

VECA BOARD OFFICERS
President Lilly Gilkey
Vice President Rick Maxwell
Secretary Chris Floyd
Treasurer Chuck Fox

VECA COMMITTEE HEADS
V&E Greenline Greg Lieberman
Housing Chuck Fox
Neighborhood Networks Lilly Gilkey
Preservation Chris Floyd
Communications Marci Hendrix

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA mail, 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
1680 Jackson Avenue
901.276.1782
Website / Calendar: veca.org
Email: veca901@gmail.com

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
January 2015

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Scott McDermott
Kaitlyn Stigler
Natasha Strong
Vollentine Optional School
Rick White
Mary Wilder
VECA Committees

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT
VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS Feb 15
ADS Feb 15
Please send all articles and submissions to vecanews901@gmail.com
For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email vecanews901@gmail.com

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Website / Calendar: veca.org
Email: veca901@gmail.com
Giving to VECA

In addition to being a dues paying member of VECA, there are several other ways you can contribute financially to the neighborhood:

Amazon Smile: Amazon Smile supports VECA and the V&E Greenline when you shop. You can shop at Amazon and make a donation to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association of 0.5 percent of the purchase price. This donation is made by Amazon, with no charge to the customer. The funds will be equally split between VECA’s most visible projects: The V&E Greenline and the VECA Welcome Center. If you shop at Amazon, please sign up to have a donation made to VECA. You will be shopping at AmazonSmile.com, which is the same as regular Amazon with a different screen. Here’s how you sign up for the donation:
- Go to the website: smile.amazon.com and sign in to Amazon
- In the box that says “pick your own charitable organization,” type in Vollintine Evergreen Community Association and search.
- Next, select Vollintine Evergreen Community Association

United Way: Donate to VECA Through United Way. The United Way campaign allows you to donate directly to VECA! United Way donations are used by many nonprofit organizations and is a great opportunity for you to give to your neighborhood! To Donate to VECA: use the back of the yellow sheet of the United Way form. The bottom of Item 3 has the following statement: “You may also support another health and human services organization in the United Way of the Mid-South service area.” Enter VECA or Vollintine Evergreen as the agency name and the amount. Please contact VECA at 276-1782 or veca901@gmail.com for any questions or to let us know about your contribution!

Kroger Plus Card: Use your Kroger Plus Card and donate to VECA. Create an account on the Kroger page at: https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Once signed in, click on “My Account.” In the Community Rewards section, click on “Enroll”. The VECA number is 18512. Please contact us at veca901@gmail.com if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

Local Government Representation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
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<td>Worth Morgan</td>
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<td>Berlin Boyd</td>
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<td>City Super District 8-1</td>
<td>Joe Brown</td>
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<td>TN Senate District 29</td>
<td>Lee Harris</td>
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<td>TN House District 30</td>
<td>Sara Kyle</td>
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<td>Jamita Swearngien</td>
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<td>District 6</td>
<td>Edmund Ford, Jr.</td>
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TENNESSEE: VEHICLES MUST YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO PEDESTRIANS WITHIN A CROSSWALK that are in the same half of the roadway as the vehicle or when a pedestrian is approaching closely enough from the opposite side of the roadway to be in danger. Vehicles in marked school zones must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk and remain stopped until the pedestrian has crossed the roadway. Pedestrians may not suddenly leave the curb and enter a crosswalk into the path of a moving vehicle that is so close the vehicle is unable to yield. Pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles when crossing outside of a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. Where traffic control devices are in operation, pedestrians may only cross between two adjacent intersections in a marked crosswalk.


Hit and Run

Vollintine Evergreen neighbors were saddened to learn of the hit and run death of resident Joy Collier. On October 8, 22-year old Joy was struck and killed in the McLean crosswalk after getting off the bus on Vollintine. Witnesses said the car that hit her was headed south on McLean at a high rate of speed.

This tragic event is a reminder that we have to be on guard while walking in our neighborhood. Vollintine Evergreen is an area with lots of traffic and many pedestrians. Children walk to school, babies are pushed in strollers, neighbors walk to work and businesses, they walk and run for exercise, and they walk their dogs – it’s a very walkable neighborhood that we can be proud of. But it is not always friendly where pedestrians are concerned. From North Parkway, Jackson Avenue, and Vollintine to cross streets such as Evergreen, McLean, University, Watkins and Springdale, pedestrian safety is a concern.

Drivers, watch out for children crossing intersections. Slow down, don’t use your phone (as of course you never do), turn the music down. When stopping at a light, let pedestrians know you see them by slowing down. Don’t stop in the crosswalk – keep it clear for pedestrians.

Pedestrians, be alert for distracted drivers. Don’t assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers. Be mindful even when you have the right of way. Use the crosswalks. Wait for opposing traffic to stop at the crosswalk. Watch out for drivers turning right on red.

Look across all lanes you have to cross and make sure all are clear before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not assume that drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.

Runners and cyclists, wear light colors and reflective gear and use lights after dark. Remember that headphones can make you distracted, too.

Don’t let this tragic event stop you from getting out, but let it be a reminder to be safe.

Friends and family made a makeshift memorial for Joy Collier after she was struck and killed by a hit and run on October 8, 2015
Making a Difference in the V&E Neighborhood

By The Neighborhood Preservation Committee

VECA received numerous complaints about continual yard sales occurring at a property on Jackson Avenue. The complaints were first reported in 2013. The Neighborhood Preservation Committee filed many complaints with Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement for a zoning violation. Only two yard sales per year are allowed, according to the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code. The yard sales continued.

Committee members were diligent in documenting the yard sales with date-stamped photos. The photos were provided to Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement. Based on the photos, Code Enforcement surveyed the property on a weekend and summoned the owner to appear in Environmental Court.

Several residents attended the court hearing to provide a voice for the neighborhood. Judge Larry Potter allowed us to provide feedback during court. The owner admitted to the yard sales and the judge issued an order prohibiting the owner from having any more yard sales this year.

As residents living in a historic neighborhood, we care about zoning laws and we recognize the importance of the laws. Reporting code and zoning violations to both the City of Memphis and Shelby County for enforcement has helped improve the neighborhood and maintain our historic character.

The Neighborhood Preservation Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except in November and December. Meetings are held at the VECA Welcome Center at 6:00p.m. Please contact Chris Floyd at cakirby72@yahoo.com for additional information. Next meeting: January 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Neighbors Take on Blight

By Cindy Hazen and Rick White

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started,” Mark Twain once quipped. He could have been talking about combatting blight. As the neighbors on Hallwood Drive discovered, action by the Environmental Court can be slow. Nevertheless, the court is an important tool to protect neighborhoods from neglected properties.

The house at 2119 Hallwood burned in February 2013. Neighbors rallied to send donations to the family, a grandmother and her grandchildren, who lost everything in their rental home. When the house wasn’t repaired, neighbors started calling the city’s support center at 311. They did so for months.

Eventually, 311 referred callers to the attorney representing the city, Steve Barlow. By now, the property had been abandoned for more than a year. The front door was secured only by an X of two-by-fours. Mr. Barlow asked concerned residents to write to the Environmental Court. He read all of the letters and emails to the Judge, who demanded a financial plan and timeline for repair from the local investor/owner to be delivered a week later on 3/27.

Work on the property lasted just long enough to give hope. In an email dated November 20, 2014, Mr. Barlow wrote, “The original plan filed with the court was to complete the property by July 2014, which obviously didn’t happen.”

It’s hard to explain why the case has been slow to resolve. Numerous court dates followed. Neighbors took countless hours off work to attend hearings. The case was reset or delayed for a variety of reasons. A judge sitting in for Judge Potter recused himself. Once, the newly assigned attorney for the defense was unprepared. On another occasion the defense attorney couldn’t be there for personal reasons. One time, the case was listed on both the 10:30 and 1:30 dockets, so she was confused about the time and had to be called in. Most recently, another attorney in her office took the case because the first attorney had to appear in another court. Judge Potter demanded the original attorney’s presence, so the deputy was dispatched to retrieve her. By the time she arrived, Mr. Barlow and the witness from Code Enforcement had left.

The attorneys and the court are stretched thin. The defendant*, a Memphis investor who owns three other properties, has been present only a few times when the court commanded attendance.

The neighbors have sat through hours of court. We have listened to many cases and heard many reasons why properties become blighted. Almost always, a lack of funds is in play. The Hallwood investor*, we believe, was severely undercapitalized when disaster struck. Why else would he support a vacant, non-income-producing property when he is paying legal fees, a mortgage and, according to the Shelby County Assessor’s office, $4,461 yearly in property taxes?

At the last court date, Judge Potter assured us we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. He expects to see substantial progress in a month’s time or he says he will take the property into receivership. We’ve been told it could then take six months to restore the house to a livable condition. That will be three years since the fire.

We learned what to do if the house is broken into, as happened recently. The police couldn’t barricade the broken door. It stood open for three days. In the future, because there is a pending lawsuit, Judge Potter asked us to report directly to Steve Barlow’s office.

The Hallwood neighbors who have engaged in this process have learned a lot about fighting blight. The process is tedious. The actual case is between the city and the property owner. Neighbors can observe. When neighbors actively participate, the court knows they are seeking resolution. To anyone starting the process, the takeaway is to support the Environmental Court through the election of judges and government officials to help provide the tools needed to be effective.

*Shalandus Harris is noted as the owner on the Shelby County Assessor of Property website. The city has filed a lawsuit against Shalandus Garrett. Presumably the same person, Shalandus Garrett engaged in 57 property transactions since January 2014, including 11 purchases in 2015 according to the Shelby County Register of Deeds website.)

V&E Greenline Receives Grant

The V&E Greenline and VECA received a City of Memphis Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant for $2,500 that will be used to install a security camera on the V&E Greenline at McLean Boulevard. The camera will have solar power and wireless capabilities. The grant proposal was spearheaded by V&E Greenline Vice President Scott McDermott, who attended meetings, interacted with City officials, prepared the grant proposal, found a possible vendor, and handled last-minute issues. The goal of the camera is to have a visual record if any issues arise involving the trail. We want to thank Karlescia Brookins of the City of Memphis Area Neighborhood Watch program for this award.

In order to be eligible for this grant, VECA needed to be certified as a Neighborhood Watch Organization through training provided by Crump Station Crime Prevention officers Rachel Wilkins and Melanie Dorsey. A dozen VECA volunteers attended the stimulating session. Scott McDermott is shown below consulting with Officer Wilkins.

This grant is another example of how important our volunteers are in making the V&E Greenline a high-quality neighborhood trail.

Neighbors are invited to attend monthly Neighborhood Watch Meetings at the Crump Station. The VECA Neighborhood Watch chapter will hold quarterly meetings at the VECA Welcome Center.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings at Crump Station
First Tuesday of every month
949 E.H. Crump, 901.636.4625

Hallwood House open to vandals
Bad Friday

By Sara First

I love fall and spring in Midtown Memphis. We emerge from our summer cocoons and winter hibernation. The sidewalks fill with adults and children walking, running, and riding bikes. I feel at home every block in my neighborhood, as do my children. A few weeks ago when we came back from a trip away, after we’d crossed under the Cleveland Street Bridge on North Parkway, my three-year-old announced, “We’re home!”

I knew that, hard as it may be, this neighborhood needs to have a conversation. We need to listen to one another and abide with one another as we live in our public spaces.

Tim told us how much he enjoys riding his “nice Edgewood Diamondback bicycle around [our] neighborhood.” He’s lived on his street since 2008. His wife was raised in the house next door, and his in-laws still live there. Tim is an African-American man, and he felt compelled to tell us that he holds a B.S. degree from the University of Memphis. He’s a veteran and has a good job. At over 50 years old, he has never been charged with more than a speeding ticket.

As he was riding down his dead-end street on Good Friday afternoon, a day he now remembers as “Bad Friday,” a car pulled right up to his rear wheel. If you’re a cyclist, like I am, you know it’s scary when a car gets abnormally close. The car passed him but returned as he rode his bike into his own driveway. The driver, an African-American woman, according to Tim, stepped out of her car and shouted at him, demanding to know what he was doing on her street and in that driveway. He explained that he lived in the house, but she remained loud and aggressive until he introduced himself and explained his many connections to the street. Apparently satisfied he was simply out for exercise and not up to no good, but without a hint of an apology, the woman jumped back into her car and sped away.

I don’t have this woman’s side of the story, but Tim’s experience rings too true to me. This is not the first time I’ve heard of a Vollintine Evergreen black resident or a guest feeling profiled – interracially or intra-racially – by neighbors. I am well aware of the rate of crime in our neighborhood. Correcting for events bringing more than one charge, we had over 150 criminal reports filed within a mile and a half of the VECA Welcome Center between September 5 and October 5. I’m also well aware that the best way to determine why a person is out and about in your neighborhood is to say hello and introduce yourself. I’ve been a victim of violent crime in the past. In the three years we’ve lived here, we’ve had items ranging from a box of candy bars to an expensive stroller stolen from our property.

I am a white woman with two young children and a dog. At times I’m out wandering the street aimlessly for hours. At times I’m on my bike, riding up and down dead-end streets with my seven-year-old. At times I’ve reached into a recycling bin to get items I never purchase – two-liter soda bottles or products with a box top – because my son’s school needs them. At times I’ve walked up someone’s front walkway quietly pursuing a stray cat or dog. Never in my life have I been yelled at, interrogated, or even obviously watched by a neighbor.

Why has no one ever yelled at me about my aimless wandering? Why has no one ever posted an alert on NextDoor about my theft from a recycling bin? The answer’s obvious.

Why do I deserve different treatment from Tim or the men whose photos end up on NextDoor? I don’t.

Why did Tim feel the need to preface his story for us with details about how he’s a fine, upstanding member of our community? He shouldn’t have to say those things before anyone will listen.

Crime, such as theft and violence, have so many causes. We live in a city with a high child poverty rate: 47% according to the “2015 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet” published by Professor Ilena Delavega of the University of Memphis. We aren’t going to cure that by yelling at the men walking and biking on our streets.

According to a July 20 report by WMC Action News titled “Leaving Kids Alone,” the Memphis Police Department receives many calls every month to respond to emergencies caused by kids at home alone after school. Juvenile crime rates peak between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. – the hours children are most likely left unsupervised at home. We aren’t going to cure that by complaining about teenagers playing basketball on our streets.

I like my belongings, but I love my neighbors. Tim joked sardonically, “I am so grateful that I wasn’t wearing a hoodie and didn’t have a bag of Skittles or some iced tea in my possession.” He pointed out how he felt threatened by his neighbor – whom he had never seen before despite his regular presence out and about on the streets – but worked to keep his cool. I’m grateful the event didn’t escalate. I’m glad he kept his temper in check, as much as she offended him.

I won’t pretend to be holier than thou (and neither would Tim). I have my moments of questionable assumptions. I live in the world with the same media as everyone else. I choose to remember the vast majority of days in my life when the people around me haven’t been up to no good, when they’ve been going up and down the streets for the same reasons I do: transportation from place to place, exercise, or a way to pass the time on a lovely day. I choose to grant privilege to and thus act according to the vast majority of my experiences in life, among a diversity of people, where no one has hurt me or stolen from me.

As Tim pointed out, we have a “unique blend” of races, ages, and social statuses in our neighborhood. Indeed, statistics reveal that Vollintine-Evergreen is one of the few truly interracial and economically diverse neighborhoods in the United States, but even we have several segregated streets. I have chosen to raise my children here and I value the diversity of my street and Snowden School. I can do so because VECA members and residents have worked for decades to maintain this neighborhood. If I live in fear of anything on my street, it’s that a rush to implicitly racist assumptions will ruin their work. I worry that someone will be injured or killed, or simply begin to feel unwelcome enjoying our outdoor spaces.

I want us all to consider, before we accuse a person of not belonging on our streets, whether we might better serve our community and our neighbors by interrogating ourselves as much as we do others.”

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Sunday
Orthos at 9 am • Liturgy at 10 am
Weekdays
Wednesday Vespers at 5:30 pm
Saturday Great Vespers at 5:50 pm
1663 Tutwiler Avenue
at Dickinson
(901) 274-4119
www.stjohnmemphis.org

Dear Angela Lamb,

Thank you for hosting a Lifeblood blood drive on 12/12/2015 at Vollintine Evergreen Community Association. We’re so grateful for your efforts to make the blood drive a success. With your help we were able to collect 13 units!

Sincerely,

Danny Garrick, Executive Director

Lifeblood

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS  JANUARY 2016  5
Above: Mr. Stanfill and Bill Nelson at the Lyndale annual picnic.

Above: Neighborhood children playing on the V&E Greenline musical public art.

Left: Lyndale Garden team working on the fall vegetables. Above: the Lyndale Team and friends gather for their annual picnic.

Above: Neighbors on Crump gather for an early fall block party.

Above: Workers on Lick Creek working with the City of Memphis SARP10 (Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program). Story on Page 11.

Below: September 14, 2015 Senior Info Session
Above and Right: For the second year in a row, children and their families stopped by the VECA Welcome Center on Halloween to enjoy treats donated by Vollintine Evergreen neighbors!

Below: The VECA annual holiday party had a great turnout. Held on December 12, it was the last of three VECA parties that week. The V&E Greenline committee and Neighborhood Preservation both had receptions earlier in the week.
Jim Martin, V&E Greenline Volunteer of the Year

The V&E Greenline held its annual volunteer reception on December 8, 2015, to recognize the work of the volunteers. The V&E Greenline generated an impressive amount of volunteer work in 2015: 193 volunteers with 2,824 total hours—the equivalent of 70 workweeks. V&E Greenline Committee members cooked the food for the event and created a poster display of the work of the volunteers.

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Dick Mochow V&E Greenline Volunteer of the Year Award to Jim Martin. He received the award for many tasks, including the layout of the Artwalk grounds, which provides space for 70 booths; clean-up of the Artwalk grounds; providing advice when the V&E Greenline was planning the entrances project; cleaning up the area around the Lick Creek Bridge; helping to lay sod around the V&E Stationhouse walkway; working on the purchase and use of a sidewalk edger to beautify the V&E Greenline sidewalks; financially supporting the V&E Greenline; and being a great supporter of the V&E Greenline. He is also a long-time distributor for the VECA News.

Officer Ennis Jackson
Crump Station November Officer of the Month

Congratulations to VECA resident and Crump Station’s November “Officer of the Month” – Officer Ennis Jackson. This award is presented to officers who have displayed exceptional leadership, skills, and teamwork amongst peers. Officer Jackson reminds neighbors to report suspicious activity. “If it’s on your mind, it’s worth a call”.

Officer Ennis Jackson (left) with neighbor, John Vego.

The church is not a building;
The church is not a steeple;
The church is not a resting place;
The church is the people:

Join the people of Evergreen Presbyterian Church as we continue to explore where God is calling us for the future.

Worship Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.
at The Beethoven Club
263 South McLean Blvd.
Corner of McLean and Peabody
www.evergreenmemphis.org

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615 N. McLEAN
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
901.274.3706

John us on Sunday mornings in the chapel at McLean and Crump

Adult Sunday School—9:30 AM
Classic Sunday Worship—10:50 AM

“A warm welcome is waiting for you. Come and enjoy traditional hymns, Bible preaching, and a truly caring family of Jesus followers.”
—Dr. Kendall Easley, Pastor

Crump Station
949 E.H. Crump
Memphis, TN 38104
Front Desk: (901) 636-4600

Jim Martin, V&E Volunteer of the Year.

The gym at the Church Health Center has your name on it!
Join now and move with us to Crosstown

By Jeff Hulett

The Church Health Center is known for providing health care to many of our neighbors who don’t have access to traditional health insurance. Many artists, musicians and small business owners all take advantage of this model. Without it, they’d have nowhere else to turn.

But many in our community, I’d venture to say the majority of folks, don’t have a clue that the Church Health Center has an 80,000-square-foot comprehensive wellness facility right down the street at 1115 Union Avenue. Many think that Church Health Center Wellness is only for the working insured or patients of the Center.

Our gym is for everyone!
Right now, family memberships are $35 a month. That’s less than $9 a person for a family of four. Individual memberships are also extremely affordable.

The Center offers everything you’d expect from a gym, but its expert staff members are equipped to hold your hand if need be. Suffer from chronic disease? No problem; our diabetes programming and classes on hypertension control are always available.

The gym is not a meat market either. There is a modest-dress code and the Church Health Center’s quest for true integrated health is on full display. Many patients use the gym and some refer to the Center as a “sanctuary for health.”

The children’s programming is exceptional, too. When I take my little ones there, I can drop them off for up to two hours while I work on my health goals. While I’m doing my best Penny Hardaway impression or just working on my core, my kids are learning how to make healthy snacks or playing fun, active games on the sports court. The creative movement studio is also fantastic.

Don’t forget the different array of cooking classes and our farmers market that runs on Tuesdays from March to November.

I encourage you to be a part of this growing community now so when the big move to Crosstown Concourse happens, your rates will be locked in. Don’t wait until we move – move with us now.

Jeff Hulett is communications manager at the Church Health Center. He lives in VECA with his wife, two kids and his dog, Chalupa.
The Church of the Good Shepherd 150th Anniversary

In our neighborhood stands a small church that for the past 150 years has provided worship and service to God in liberty wherewith Jesus Christ has made us free.

The Church of the Good Shepherd was founded in the Chelsea neighborhood in 1865 immediately after the Civil War. Memphis was mired in poverty. This mission became a light, a city on the hill for settlements of English, Irish, Germans, Italians, and other immigrants from all over the world. This church attained full parish status in 1872 and assisted in forming the Refuge of the Good Shepherd mission the Canfield asylum, St. Savior’s mission and St. Andrew’s mission. It was a manifestation of the social gospel of Christ which had not yet become generally accepted. This endeavor was to catch on and be worked much later by the Salvation Army, Hull House in Chicago, and other social settlements caught on nation-wide 12 to 15 years later.

As Memphis spread east, so the Church of the Good Shepherd moved to 1971 Jackson Avenue in March 1942. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1945. As the neighborhood developed and became known as Vollintine Evergreen, the church thrived with families and children. As Memphis spread even farther east, the church decided to remain at 1971 Jackson.

To our Vollintine Evergreen neighbors: We have maintained our presence here and will be until our times end. We have become smaller but viable, living and keeping the faith once delivered to the Saints of God.

In good times and in bad times we are here for holding up the faith that God has given to us and to mankind. We worship God in the beauty of Holiness and continue to promote, care, protect the faith that God has given to all who trust in Him.

If you are looking for a great relationship with God in Christ, Good Shepherd may be the place for you to grow more deeply committed to God. Love and forgiveness carries us throughout this journey of life we live.

At the Church of the Good Shepherd:

We use the Book of Common Prayer that all who read and digest its contents may lead a godly, quiet and peaceable life in God’s world.

We live and believe in the Trinity of God, that is, God is our Father, Jesus Christ is His Son, our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit given to us to lead and guide us.

We believe the universe is good. That it is the work of a single, loving God who creates, sustains, and directs it. The world belongs to God its creator, and all can respond to the love of God. God first has helped us. He revealed Himself and His will through nature and history, through many people and saints and prophets. God has given us a Messiah, His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We follow Jesus Christ as He taught us—Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.

We pray the Lord’s Prayer.

We incline our hearts to keep the Ten Commandments.

We believe the Apostles Creed.

We try to be joyful in the Lord and come before His presence with a song.

We give thanks and praise and come into His church to worship with his truth.

We try to be joyful in the Lord and come before His presence with a song.

We incline our hearts to keep the Ten Commandments.

We use the Book of Common Prayer that all who read and digest its contents...
Memphis!

Come see what we have to offer, because we are indeed the best-kept secret in programs. In addition to the science optional focus, we offer a variety of clubs to recruit students in the surrounding daycares as well as students in pre-kindergarten strategies to ensure optimal learning. We are so excited that our optional program has expanded to include kindergarten students. With the expansion, we are able to recruit students in the surrounding daycares as well as students in pre-kindergarten programs. In addition to the science optional focus, we offer a variety of clubs to enhance our students’ self-esteem and character. As always, we are dedicated to the belief that success in learning can and must be achieved by every student.

Come see what we have to offer, because we are indeed the best-kept secret in Memphis!
Historic Signage Update

Since the completion of the ioby fundraising campaign, VECA’s historic committee has been meeting monthly to keep this project moving forward. Historic committee members met with employees of the engineering department recently to discuss the requirements of putting signage up around the district. The meeting went well. The engineering department updated us on requirements for the hardware and signs as well as insurance requirements.

Volunteers have identified many possible locations for the signage and are now soliciting bids on the signs and hardware.

The next steps are:
1) Determining insurance costs
2) Consulting with a graphic designer on the finishing touches of the design
3) Ordering signage
4) Selecting a contractor for installation
5) Finalizing plans with the city engineering department
6) Installation

Thanks again to everyone that donated to the project, and we look forward to keeping you updated as things continue moving along!

Sewer Project Benefits VECA Residents

By Mike Kirby

Residents attending a meeting at the VECA Welcome Center on December 15 learned that improvements to the sanitary sewers near Lick Creek are part of a $250 million ten-year project benefiting the entire city. The project will significantly reduce the sewage backups that residents experience in their basements during heavy rains. Because sewers are old and the water table is high, water leaked into the sanitary sewer. The repairs will fix this leakage. This work was agreed to in a consent decree between Memphis and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The City and its contractors will have finished their work in Vollintine Evergreen by the end of January 2016. The work involves placing a large pipe in Lick Creek; the pipe is a temporary bypass so that work can be done on sewers that are in the streets and other public areas. The bypass pipe runs from near North Parkway and University Street to Watkins Street. It is pressure-treated and is inspected daily to make sure it does not leak sewage.

The actual work involves large, million-dollar trucks like the one in the photo below. First, the section of sewer between manholes is cleaned out. Next, a camera is used to determine whether there are further blockages or significant damage, which is then repaired. Finally, a plastic liner is inserted into the sewer line to provide a continuous line without any joints. The liners are expected to hold up for 50 years.

All workers will be carrying badges that include the Memphis City and contractor’s logo.

This process is non-invasive and will not require tearing up streets. Small sections of the sewer where there is severe damage will have to be dug up at Tutwiler Avenue and Auburndale Street and the Snowden football field.

Once the work has been finished, the City will maintain the sewers on schedules identified by the engineering firm supervising the work.

This project is for the public section of the sanitary sewer. Homeowners are still responsible for the section of the sewer that starts on the owners’ side of the street cleanout (pipe with cap standing up) to inside the owners’ homes.

Many other cities being required by the EPA to improve their sewers are seeing much higher costs, such as $10 billion in Atlanta. One of the reasons Memphis’s cost is lower is our separate sanitary and storm water sewers. In addition, Memphis’s sewer fees are among the lowest in the nation.

One of the major causes for damage to the sewers is tree roots. And because people pour oil and grease down their drains, the sewers become clogged and can’t drain properly. According to City inspectors, the only way to dispose of grease and oil is by pouring it into a container, freezing it, then putting it in your garbage can. The City even provides lids that fit common can sizes. Call 636-4301 for information on the City of Memphis Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) Program.

Special thanks to Bobby Allen of the City of Memphis, SARP10 (Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program), and employees of engineering firm with Black and Veatch for a wonderful presentation and great outreach into our community. Thanks also to Mary Wilder for arranging the meeting and for being a driving force in making our neighborhood needs known to the City. Finally, thanks to the EPA for requiring the City of Memphis to perform this long-overdue work.

For more information and a work schedule, see www.sarp10.com.
Dear V&E Neighbor,

Happy New Year! We send you our best wishes for a fulfilling and great 2016. The New Year marks the 45th Anniversary of VECA (Vollintine Evergreen Community Association), a momentous occasion for us to celebrate. Because of V&E neighbors like you, who graciously donate time and share your talents with VECA, we are able to operate as a 100% volunteer-run neighborhood organization. Your loyal support is vital to VECA’s operations and mission-critical to our continued success. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to all VECA members and volunteers!

In honor of our 45th Anniversary, please consider making a 2016 donation to VECA that is meaningful to you. All donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

IMAGINE…What We Can Do Together This Year with a 45th Anniversary Gift of $45 to VECA:
• If 1,000 residents joined VECA at the $45 membership level, we could raise $45,000.
• If 2,000 residents joined VECA at the $45 membership level, we would raise $90,000.

IMAGINE…What We Can Do Together This Year with a Tribute Gift of $100 to VECA:
• Renew or join us at the $100 membership level to support our 2016 donation goal to have 45 or more neighbors contribute at this level or above.

Why Join VECA? VECA affords us the avenue to share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and advocate, collectively, for the advancement of our neighborhood and community.

My VECA Membership: Every individual member keeps VECA going – whether you attend meetings, volunteer time, and/or donate financially. Your membership matters and we invite you to renew your membership or join VECA for the first time.

We are proud to celebrate and toast to VECA’s 45 years of service – a collective effort with the community to support our beloved Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Thank you for choosing Vollintine-Evergreen as your neighborhood and donating to VECA.

With Gratitude, Your VECA Membership Committee Team 🎉

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December 3rd, St. Jude runners going the full marathon distance of 26.2 miles, ran through Vollintine Evergreen. They approached the neighborhood via Watkins, ran east on Tukwiler to University to Jackson, Hein Park and through the Rhodes campus. VECA had a cheering station along the V&E Greenline.

VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Gethsemane Garden
1740 Vollintine Avenue

Saturday, January 23, 2016
9:00-10:00 am Potluck Breakfast
10:00-11:15 am Annual Meeting & Elections

Bring your favorite breakfast food to share
VECA will provide coffee and juice