



VILLAGE CREEK SOCIETY VOICE

May 5, 2015

Newsletter for the Village Creek Society

3 Focus Areas:

- Complete cleaning of the creek
- Converting Village Creek into a living learning environment and educational resource
- Making Village Creek useful to the communities it connects

New Day Village Creek is a rallying cry announcing to friends and prospective friends of the Village Creek Society that a new and energetic focus is being applied to make Village Creek an exemplary urban waterway that all can enjoy. Under the leadership of Executive Director Yohance Owens, VCS is embracing a fresh approach to the ways the creek can be preserved, as well as, add benefits to the communities it is connected to.

Village Creek runs 44 miles through Birmingham and impacts communities throughout the city. Our New Day Campaign will begin with our Fundraiser and Roll Out on May 7, 2015 at Avondale Brewery.

#NewDayVillageCreek

It's a new day at Village Creek. Over the past 35 years the Village Creek Society has focused on cleaning and securing the banks of Village Creek. The focus of VCS will not change. VCS does however, plan to amplify its activity to reach broader portions of the creek and to engage a broader set of partners to accomplish our 3 focus area goals.



Village Creek Society Fundraiser

This is your cordial invitation to the Village Creek Society Fundraiser on May 7, 2015 at Avondale Brewery beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 9:30p.m. We are excited to raise awareness and some valuable funds for projects along Village Creek, while sharing a beer and information with neighbors, colleagues, and friends. We are proud to have AIG Financial Network as a partner in this endeavor and also, excited about Flannel Dan and the Wanderers who will play live.

Come out and bring a friend, Village Creek Society will be on display. Avondale Brewery, and the Avondale Community in general, are a prime example of taking something that is quintessentially Birmingham and conceptualizing it a new way. VCS is excited about the many new and exciting prospects for the future of Village Creek Society. We can't wait to see you there.

VILLAGE CREEK SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

**EVENT IS
THURSDAY**
MAY 7, 2015
530-930 PM

HOSTED AT
AVONDALE BREWERY



AVONDALE BREWING CO.
BIRMINGHAM ★ ALABAMA

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY

FLANNEL DAN AND THE WANDERERS

ASKING \$20 SUGGESTED DONATIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION | CONTACT YOHANCE OWENS | 205 532-7466
| www.villagecreeksociety.org | 205 907-0355

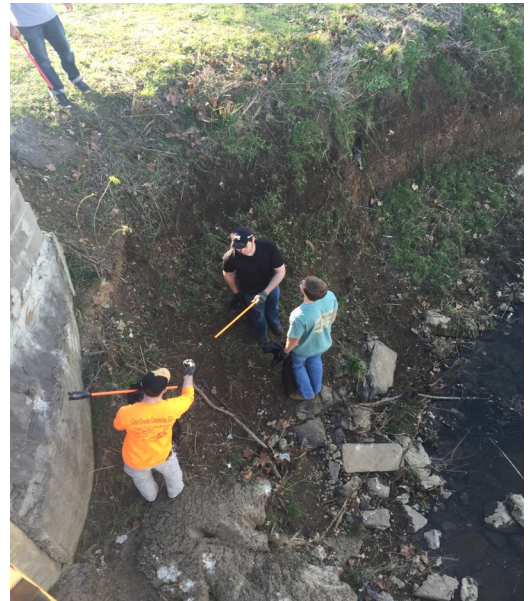


Village Creek Society Clean Ups

Village Creek Society is proud of its multiple creek clean ups. This year VCS has hosted a Martin Luther King Day of Service Clean Up that took place on January 21, 2015. In conjunction with Hands on Birmingham, VCS and 200 plus volunteers met in Ensley near Avenue W to perform a massive clean up to the creek and its banks.

The clean up included high school students, holiday observers, and neighbors. Students from Miles College, UAB, Talladega College, and other area universities participated. Students, student organizations, Greek letter organizations and others chipped in to help clean up the area. Volunteers worked in teams to remove tons of trash and debris from the area.

This year VCS will host additional clean ups. The entirely student led Student Leadership Clean-Up will take place at the parts of the creek nearest to Jackson-Olin High School on May 9, 2015. In addition, for the first time in the history of VCS, a clean up will be hosted by Birmingham Audubon Society, Friends of East Lake and Village Creek Society on July 18, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. near East Lake Park. VCS will partnered with North Pratt Neighborhood Association on June 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. for North Pratt Clean –Up Day.



Village Creek Society in the Schools

As a part of the Village Creek Society broadening its scope of services, VCS has made a concerted effort to produce programs and engage partners to teach students from area schools about the value of Village Creek. Students have taken the opportunities and embraced the learning experiences which has further emboldened the organization to augment these efforts.

The Village Creek Society worked with the Norwood Resource Center and their Junior Gardner Program to teach students about water, PH levels, and other pertinent information about clean and dirty water. Executive Director Yohance Owens, Resource Center Director Melodie Echols, and District 4 School Board Member Daagye Hendricks all presented to the students. Direcus Cooper presented an “only rain down the drain.” presentation on behalf of the City of Birmingham. Marty Schulman and Taylor Steele both provided knowledge to students through experiments that the students loved. We also were gifted with a brief presentation from Cahaba River Society’s Gordon Black.

In addition, Executive Director Owens has visited, Barrett Elementary School, Holy Family Cristo Rey, Reeltown High School, and other area schools spreading the word on environmental responsibility and how they too may have a career in protecting the environment.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

I am excited and joyful of the opportunity as being selected the Executive Director of Village Human and Environmental Justice Society, Inc.. Village Creek Society thru the leadership of Dr. Mable Anderson has overcome dire odds to become as it stated in the mission statement “Restoration, Education, Advocacy and Economic Development” for the voice of the Village Creek watershed. I am looking forward to pushing thru the projects that Village Creek Society has worked on tirelessly for many years to become a reality .

Today is a new day for Village Creek Society. Village Creek Linear Park and Trail will finally be a reality in the upcoming months, Outdoor Open Science Classroom plans for the upcoming school year is in the development stage, in classroom water preservation and quality testing, Community Clean-ups thru different parts of the Village Creek Watershed, Village Creek will develop partnerships with different organizations to have economic development thru the Village Creek Watershed, advocacy to maintain and preserve the Clean Water Act of 1972, and control flooding within the Village Creek watershed.

I would like to thank the Village Creek Society Executive Board, Village Creek Society Advisory Board, and Dr. Mable Anderson for your trust and support. I would also like to thank AIG Financial Network for sponsoring the May 7, 2015 fundraiser at Avondale Brewery.

I have met so many wonderful people over the last several months that it would be unfair if I tried to name everyone but THANK YOU!

My motto in life is “Community service is one of the greatest aspect of society”. Yohance Owens

