

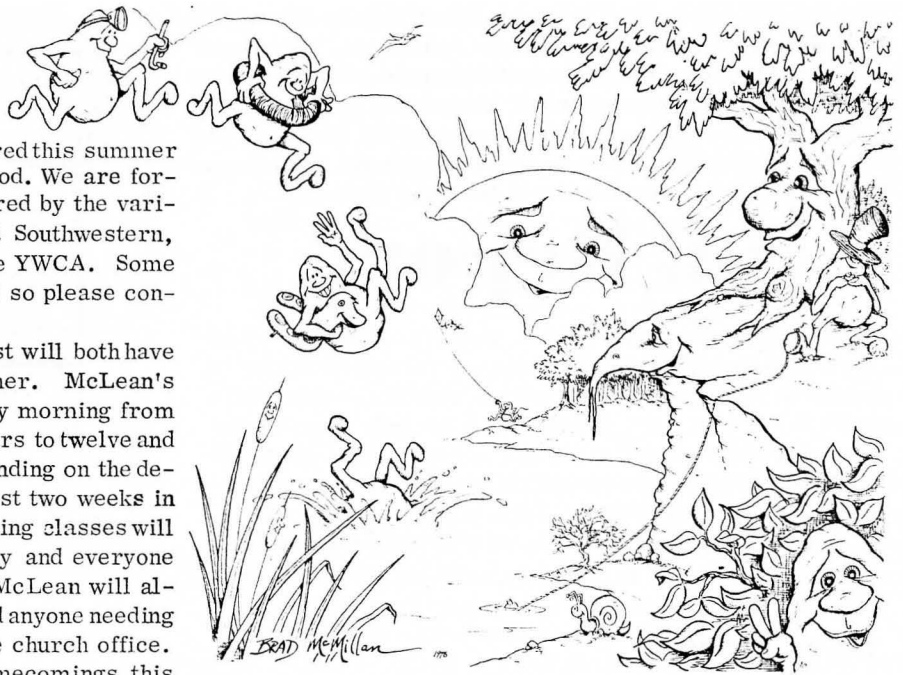
Summer Fun

by Karen Tynes

There are going to be many activities offered this summer for both adults and children in the neighborhood. We are fortunate to have not only the many programs offered by the various area churches but also special classes at Southwestern, the Lewis Center for Senior Citizens and the YWCA. Some of the details on these programs are not final so please consider this a partial list.

OpenDoor Bible Church and McLean Baptist will both have the traditional Vacation Bible School this summer. McLean's will be held during the last week in July, every morning from 9 - 12. There will be classes for ages 3 years to twelve and possibly a class for junior high students depending on the demand. Open Door will hold their VBS the first two weeks in August for ages two to twelve. Their morning classes will also start at nine but will close at 11:30. Any and everyone will be welcome at both these Bible Schools. McLean will also run their regular Sunday School bus route and anyone needing transportation for their children should call the church office.

These two churches are also holding Homecomings this



The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association

summer. OpenDoor is inviting all past and present members to join them on July 3rd and 4th. McLean, celebrating its 50th Anniversary June 6th, will have dinner in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning services with special programs to follow. All those connected with the church anytime in the last fifty years are welcome to come. Please call the church office for dinner reservations.

Jackson Avenue Church of Christ and Evergreen Presbyterian will be having evening study groups for the whole family. Evergreen will have four sessions, June 15 and 17, then on the 22nd and 24th on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8. Anyone wishing to also have supper at the church at 5:30 should make reservations at the church office. There will be four adult studies offered: "Prophets and the Exile" led by the Rev. AUGUST SCHMITT; a study of the book of Galatians by Ms. PRISCILLA APPERSON; "Influence of Art in Religion" with a different speaker each night and "Christian Accountability". This last study will also have four different leaders, dealing with community fragmentation, the education crisis, hunger in Memphis and the revival of the neighborhood.

The study group for the youth will be lead by Dr. NEAL and will begin with a film introduction on Sunday night, June 13th. This will be the program about death and dying entitled "Wake Up and Live." For the elementary ages there will be "A Study of the Christian Family" and will be led by Mr. HANK TANKERSELY who will talk about family counseling and related studies.

Southwestern will be offering two special courses this summer. FRANK FAUX will lead a discussion group in a comparison of Hemingway, Dreiser and Wilder. There will be

morning and evening groups offered. CARL WALTERS will also lecture on "Religious Motifs in Literature." This will be an evening only course. Please call the Continuing Education Center at Southwestern for further details.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens has several classes offered besides their Better Breathers Club which is open to anyone with chronic respiratory problems. The Center also will hold a slide show of Thailand on June 30 and a class in Self-Defense for Seniors on June 14. The neighborhood YWCA is offering no new courses for children this summer but its oil painting and senior citizens groups will continue.

The Church of the Good Shepard will have its annual Ice Cream Festival June 24th at the church. In addition to good food and fun there will also be door prizes.

Day Camps will be held at McLean and Evergreen Churches. McLean's will be one day a week but the day as yet has not been decided upon. At this writing the Park Commission will be having its regular summer program on the Evergreen

Meetings

I-B Priority Area planning meeting. Residents are urged to come and comment on plans for spending \$3 million in the north part of the V/E area. A Community Development representative will discuss grant/loan housing program. Wednesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Cypress Junior High.

☆☆☆

VECAA Housing Committee. Plan to attend and help combat housing deterioration. Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of Clough Hall at Southwestern.

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NOT TO BE PLACED IN MAILBOXES

Playground, but funding is uncertain so contact Evergreen later on in the month for information. And for the "little ones" JANIE CONRAD is once again sponsoring the Forrest Avenue Play Group. For walkers through kindergarteners she offers supervised fun and snacks at her home at 1751 Forrest. The Play Group meets from 9 a.m. to noon and rates are reasonable. For more information call Janie at 278-9559.

I-B Report

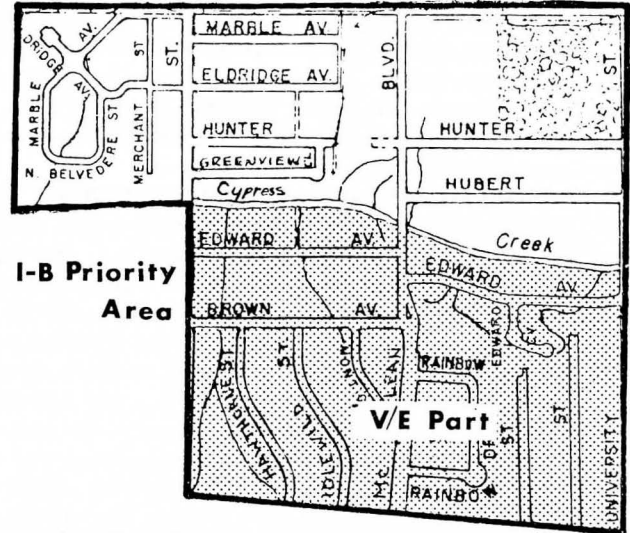
During the Fall of 1975 surveys were conducted in a portion of the V/E area as part of the City's Community Development (CD) activities. The Voluntary priority area (designated as I-B) lies partly in our neighborhood with the other portion north of Cypress Creek. (See map below.) Of the approximately 300 households located in this portion of the V/E area, a sample of 39 was selected for interviewing as part of this study. Some of the results are presented below.

Social Survey

The sample indicated that 36% of the households in this area were white and 64% black. Three-fourths (77%) of the housing units were in single-family dwellings with the rest in duplexes. There are no multi-family (apartment) structures in this part of the I-B priority area. Most (90%) of the structures were in standard condition with the rest in a rehabilitative state. None were dilapidated. Three-fourths of the respondents owned their homes although black residents were more likely to be renters than whites. The median number of years residents had lived in the area was 5.5 with black residents understandably having shorter tenure. Only one-fourth of the respondents had previously lived in the neighborhood; house size and cost had been main factors in attracting them to the area.

The socio-economic status of the area was fairly high with 28% of the households having annual incomes in excess of \$11,000. There was, however, a significant proportion (36%) with incomes under \$5,000. This group was characterized mostly by retired or unemployed heads-of-household. Housing costs were fairly high with the typical homeowner paying notes in excess of \$200 and the typical renter over \$100 in rent. Two-thirds (64%) of the heads-of-household were working (all full-time), 15%

were retired or disabled and a fairly high 21% were unemployed. A high 56% of the heads-of-household had some education beyond high school. 15% of the household contained pre-schoolers, 46% school-age children and 9% retired people.



A major concern of the Community Development Program is environmental conditions and these were examined in the I-B area. Major problems identified were air pollution, drainage problems and inadequate street lighting. There was also some concern over vacant lots, uncut weeds and litter. Black residents perceived a greater intensity of environmental deficiencies than whites. When asked to rate five areas of concern to the CD Program, V/E residents in I-B considered streets the most important area for improvement followed by parks. Housing conditions, litter and curbs/gutters followed in importance but at a great distance.

Less than half (44%) of the respondents were familiar with the CD Program. Only half of these knew that money was to be spent in the area or that CD meetings were being held in the neighborhood. Fifteen percent of the total sample, however, had attended some of the meetings. The residents were optimistic about the benefits of the program and felt it would have some lasting impact.

The residents expressed a high level of neighborhood identification with 95% stating they liked the neighborhood, 45% that it was a good place to raise children and 72% that they had regular contact

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with their neighbors. Interestingly, very few of the respondents shopped in the neighborhood, citing a lack of shopping centers. It was dismaying to find that only 21% of the residents were familiar with the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association. All of these, however, thought VECAA was doing a good job.

Residents were also asked to identify existing social problems. Few problems were considered significant although lack of programs for children and senior citizens were most frequently cited. Crime and unemployment also elicited some concern. Additional questions on crime found the residents split as to whether or not it was safe to walk the neighborhood streets alone. Whites felt somewhat more unsafe in this than blacks. Virtually no one thought this area had more crime than other parts of town and only 5% of the respondents had been a victim of some crime during the previous year. Despite this, 31% thought that police patrols should be increased in the area.

Existing Conditions

The CD Program contracted with Taylor and Crump Architects, Inc., to prepare the plan for area I-B. Architect RUDOLPH JONES, Jr., is the project director and has been responsible for most of the work completed to date. This section discusses the major findings with regard to existing conditions followed by a summary of some of the ideas proposed by the planners.

The major problems existing in the priority area are found north of Cypress Creek. However, in discussing those south of the creek they will often be alluded to because of their implications for the V/E area.

Most of the deficiencies south of Cypress Creek could be categorized as environmental. The soil conditions on both sides of the creek are poor, with a high water table making drainage a problem. This area is also characterized by poor drainage behind Edward Cove, a deteriorated ditch through University Park and the now well-known problems associated with Cypress Creek. Drainage problems are compounded by the lack of curbs and gutters on portions of Brown and University Avenues.

There are some deficiencies with regard to utilities. A few areas are not adequately lighted by street lights and others in the south-east section are not as close to fire hydrants as current standards require. Much of the southeast section is characterized by antiquated gas lines. These will not be replaced, how-

ever, except in the case of major street repairs.

Housing deterioration is not much of a problem south of the creek although a number of units need some rehabilitation. These structures are for the most part rental duplexes located on Brown, Edward, Vollintine, Evergreen and Belvedere. Deterioration is not severe with a lack of paint being the most common problem. There are a few vacant lots but the bulk of those are along Cypress Creek and not particularly suited for development. Some litter problems are associated with the deteriorated housing and vacant lots.

Several problems related to transportation were identified by the planners, with most being north of the Creek. Major street repairs are needed on portions of University, McLean, Brown, Edward and Edward Cove. Minor street repairs are indicated for portions of Evergreen, Brown, McLean and University. A significant proportion of the total priority area is further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Some transportation problems north of the creek bear on the V/E area. The most significant of these is the traffic associated with the industrial areas along Chelsea.

The identified problems in the V/E portion of the I-B priority area are not severe. They should be easy to remedy while the heavier expenditures north of the creek should have a beneficial effect on the V/E area.

The planner's proposals for the area should be finalized in a month or so and the July issue of the News will carry the recommendations.

House Notes

Much of the concern recently expressed by neighborhood residents has centered on housing deterioration. In response VECAA has stepped up its efforts to improve housing conditions. The housing committee has been beefed up and is being headed by real estate agent JOE SOHM of 872 Sheridan. The committee has met twice recently with 20 residents attending one meeting and 15 the other. Some of the conditions that


Adopt-A-House

HOMES WANTED. Participate in VECAA's "Adopt A House" program. Senior citizens (and other eligible residents) who cannot physically or financially fix up their houses can be adopted by a neighborhood service organization. We can help fix-up, paint-up and clean up your home. Call MIKE KIRBY at 274-8709.

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exist were discussed and some alternatives explored.

One of the committee's first acts was to set up a housing complaint board. The purpose of the board is to encourage residents to report those who are contributing to housing deterioration and general sloppiness. VECAA intends to take appropriate action on its own behalf or through City agencies in order to maintain the character of the neighborhood.

It has been found that duplexes, which constitute nearly one-fifth of the neighborhood's housing units, are the most frequent victims of deterioration. VECAA has embarked on a program aimed at involving absentee landlords in the preservation process. Hopefully this will alleviate the problem somewhat. Residents with complaints should call Joe Sohm at 278-6962.

VECAA has enrolled its first home in its "Adopt A House" program. Through VECAA the Kinney Program at Southwestern and other service organizations have agreed to adopt a house belonging to those who can not physically or financially maintain their homes. This is not a charity program but a neighborhood effort to work with those who need to fix up their homes.

Residents who are concerned about housing deterioration should attend the next meeting of the housing committee. It will be held on Thursday, June 3, at 7:30 in Clough Hall (3rd floor) at Southwestern.

Address all correspondence to: The Evergreen News, 1906 Mignon Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107.

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association
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Thanks are due the Kappa Delta sorority at Southwestern. For a service project the girls took on the task of cleaning up some of the neighborhood's commercial areas. Fifteen or more students collected 60 bags of trash from four shopping areas in different parts of the community. JANET BOYD organized the effort which points to the need for shopkeepers to be more diligent in their efforts to clean up. The shopping area on Vollintine (at Avalon) deserves commendation for its well-kept grounds.

The V/E area is fortunate to have a neighborhood radio station in the form of WLYX at Southwestern. GEORGE McCLINTOCK, station manager, is interested in producing a community-oriented program. WLYX will provide assistance to anyone interested so here is your chance to be in broadcasting and also help your neighborhood. Interested residents should call George at 276-3812 or 276-1711.

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RUMMAGE SALE. Baron Hirsch Ladies Auxiliary to sponsor bargain basement sale on Sunday, June 13, from 10 to 3. 1740 Vollintine.

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