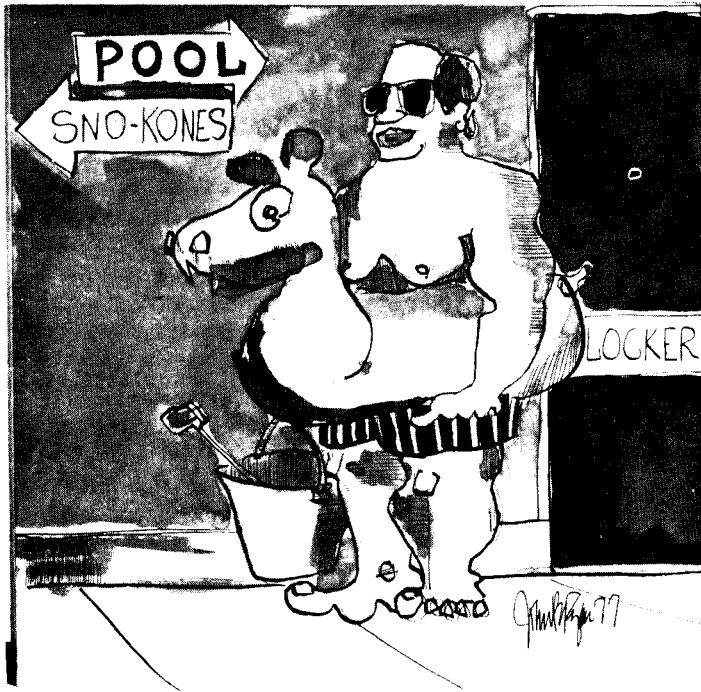


The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

Summer Fun



Summer always brings a special group of activities for members of the V/E community. Listed below are just a few of those available. A quick telephone call for further information can make this summer a busy one for all members of your family.

For the eighth year the Forrest Avenue Playgroup will be offered for children of walking age through kindergarten. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, a planned program of activities is offered by ANNA-BEL CONRAD and JOHANNA BURKETT. Enrollment is limited, so call early (278-9559) to make a reservation for your young ones. McLean Baptist Day Care Center will remain open this summer, Mondays through Fridays. Arrangements for enrollment can be made by calling PAT GOAD at 274-9440. In addition, McLean Baptist will sponsor a Bible School beginning August 1 for grades one through six. Youth Week, for junior and senior high ages, will be held at night beginning August 1.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens (55 years and older) is planning several trips. Included are trips to Hawaii, Eureka Springs, St. Louis and Nashville. There are opportunities at the Center to participate in art classes, craft classes, a card room, weaving and dancing. Lunch is served daily for 75¢ to members. For further information call SALLY PHILLIPS at 272-7408. Southwestern College has recently completed a new swimming pool adjacent to the tennis courts and lessons are being offered to

swimmers of varying ability. Call DEBBIE THOMBLINSON in the athletic department at 274-1800 for additional details.

Evergreen Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Summer Night Studies series again this year beginning June 5. It has been enlarged to combine the efforts of seven churches in the Mid-town area. The topics of study to be covered include: Old Testament, New Testament, Personal Devotion, Music and Worship, The Christian's Role in the Future of Memphis, etc. There is also a complete nursery and youth program during the study sessions. For reservations call Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

Also at Evergreen, the recreation center will be open at 1 p.m. every day this summer. Several ball teams are now being formed for those 1st graders on up. Tennis lessons are being offered at the Church for both children and adults.

First United Lutheran Church will host a German night on June 10th. A covered dish dinner of German specialties will precede a program of slides and dancing. All during the summer a paperback book drive will be underway with the proceeds going to a needy family sponsored by the Church. Books may be contributed to the Church office anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Parting Shots

by Mike Kirby

Ed: VECAA president MIKE KIRBY has received an unexpected opportunity to spend a year in Washington, D. C., working on a nationwide program in criminal justice. His appointment begins June 1. This is the second of two articles outlining projects he would like continued in his absence.

6) The organization needs to be vigilant about housing deterioration. I suggest that a yearly survey be conducted during the summer to identify those properties in the neighborhood which do not meet neighborhood standards. Then, I suggest a direct contact be initiated between members of VECAA and homeowners, landlords and tenants whose actions violate neighborhood housing standards. From the group of tenants, landlords, and homeowners who are not able to fix up their own property, VECAA ought to make a commitment using volunteers from the neighborhood and various service organizations. Further, for those who seem to have the capabilities of fixing up their properties and refuse to, there ought to be direct contact with the Department of Housing Improvement in the City of Memphis. Simultaneously, attorneys for the neighborhood ought to file a complaint with the prosecutor in City Court so that a legal disposition can be made on these cases.

7) It is suggested that the neighborhood consider establishing some sort of conciliation service. Many times there are bad feelings between neighbors which cannot be solved by direct interaction between neighbors. In this case, an outside party coming in to work with each of the affected neigh-

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NOT TO BE PLACED IN MAILBOXES

Housing Board

V/E residents are urged to report housing-related problems they identify in the neighborhood to VECAA's Housing Complaint Board. The Board can deal with violations of the city's building codes such as structural disrepair, weeds, litter etc., as well as other deviations from neighborhood standards. Action will also be taken in the area of tenant landlord relations when they relate to neighborhood goals. The Board is especially interested in hearing about "undesirable activities", real estate whether legal or illegal, in our community. All complaints, inquiries or comments should be directed to Board chairman JOE SOHM at 278-6962

bors can go a long way to creating peace and tranquility in the neighborhood.

8) Everyone must understand that this is a racially integrated neighborhood and that VECAA works for both the black and white community. It must also be understood that we are asking the black community to participate with us to a greater extent. In addition, we in VECAA should be in the forefront working for open housing for Memphis so that whites can live in Mid-town Memphis if they want to and blacks can live in the suburbs if they wish. Both block-busting and racial steering are highly undesirable and ought to be condemned by all enlightened Memphians.

9) The neighborhood needs to continue publicizing itself as much as possible. Publicity creates interest in the organization and attracts people to live in this part of Mid-town. It also puts on guard the enemies of the neighborhood, in that the neighborhood is monitoring their activities and will not allow them to do things which are destructive of the neighborhood.

10) Neighborhood meetings should only be held when there are issues of burning concern. If anything, additional meetings should be held if there are more social occasions such as carnivals and neighborhood dinners. Most of the work of the organization should be done in committees. In addition, please don't wait for an invitation to give the VECAA committee your assistance. There are jobs to be done by everyone from the most technically oriented to those who have good common sense.

11) It seems to me that VECAA ought to understand the importance of institutions such as Southwestern and the churches.

These institutions have been supportive of our organization and, in the case of Southwestern, students have offered great resources to organizations by conducting clean-up campaigns in the neighborhood, to a research of the neighborhood and helping to paint houses in the neighborhood. Southwestern provides this neighborhood with an identity in terms of those residents who want to move into the neighborhood and city officials who see the Southwestern campus as a bellweather for the neighborhood. However, Southwestern will only continue to be an important part in the neighborhood organization if the neighborhood continues to ask for its participation.

12) The neighborhood needs to encourage enterprises such as the recent redevelopment of Vollenstone Courts and the redevelopment of commercial areas. In addition, we need to encourage many of the neighborhood businesses to continue to serve us in a very effective way; and, for those businesses that have been unstable and transitory, we need to encourage good management in the types of businesses which serve the neighborhood.

Dear Editor ...

Ed.: This excerpt from a letter from a new resident is being printed in hopes that the parents of the children involved may be informed about a potential problem in the area.

Dear Editor:

Perhaps you may be able to offer some advice on a minor problem we are experiencing at our home at the corner of Mignon and McLean. We have two apple trees in our side yard which is up on a steep hill; the McLean side is bordered by a three-foot concrete wall adjacent to the sidewalk. The school kids from Snowden like to come in to the yard to get the apples on their way home from school in the afternoon. As far as we are concerned, the children are welcome to the apples, but I am concerned that the horseplay and jumping off the concrete wall may eventually cause a serious injury to one of the children.

Of secondary importance is the damage to the branches of the trees themselves and the mashing of apples (and plums, too, incidentally) which makes it especially messy and difficult to clean up. It has done no good to ask the kids not to come into the yard as we are working at the time it occurs and cannot monitor them. At times there have been as many as 25 children in the yard at one time. We have also tried allowing the children to gather freshly fallen apples off the ground. Although a number

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of children did cooperate with this request, others still took advantage. We find apples thrown around our house, in our backyard, in our garage, not to mention in the streets near the house. The Police Department was unable to offer any practical or constructive solutions. The principal of Snowden, however, did monitor the corner on May 20, instructing children not to go into the yard. The effects of this step remain to be seen. We certainly do not want to have to resort to cutting the tree down, and neither can we afford to have a fence put up. Perhaps other neighborhood residents have had similar problems. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bob and Beth Olson

Commercial Areas

During the past year and a half much work has been completed on a neighborhood plan for the V/E community. Previous articles have discussed such aspects of the plan as zoning and housing. The article that follows deals with commercial areas in the community.

Several commercial areas exist within the Vollentine-Evergreen neighborhood to serve the shopping needs of its residents. Those on McLean, Vollentine, Jackson at Evergreen and Watkins at Brown are in the C-1 zoning district. The commercial area at Jackson and Watkins is zoned C-2 and is part of a much larger commercial district. Incidents of nonconforming establishments are negligible. These commercial areas are especially valuable to the neighborhood because they provide shopping facilities within walking distance of many residents, yet remain relatively unobtrusive.

Business in the Vollentine - Evergreen neighborhood is reasonably well established. Sixty-two percent of the current businesses observed have been in operation here at least five out of the past six years. Eighteen percent have been here for between two and four of the past six years. New busi-

nesses, those which have been established within the past year, account for 20 percent of all current businesses. The most stable areas have been Jackson/Watkins and Jackson/Evergreen, while the least stable has been Watkins/Brown.

New businesses have had mixed success in the V/E area. Although nine businesses have located and remained here from 2-4 years out of the past six, eleven businesses have located and failed here during the past six years.

Another item of interest in the Vollentine-Evergreen neighborhood is the number of turnovers on its commercial sites. Of 52 commercial sites observed 53% of the sites have remained completely stable (have had no turnovers) within the past six years. Six or 12% of the sites have turned over from 2-4 times, while 17 or 33% have turned over once.

At present (April, 1977) there are four vacant commercial sites in the V/E area. One has been recently vacated two have been vacant for the past two years; and one has been vacant for at least the past six years.

By examining statistics for the failure of new business, the turnover on commercial sites, and the number of present and recent vacancies, it can be held that the Vollentine-Evergreen area could probably not support new business allowed by more commercial zoning. The following should be noted.

1. Excluding a business established within the past year (it is too early to tell how these businesses will do), more businesses have failed in the neighborhood than remained.

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2. Although new businesses constitute a significant percentage of total business, there are sufficient vacant lots and frequent turnovers to allow new businesses.

3. The only stable commercial area (over 50% of total business located here for over five years) with no vacancies, the Evergreen and Jackson area has two residential lots which are zoned commercial. If the need is pressing enough (and the cost right) these could be bought for commercial sites.

Another aspect of the neighborhood should be examined before considering commercial zoning changes. There are several C - 2 commercial areas on the periphery of the V/E neighborhood. The neighborhood is served by extensive commercial establishments at the northwest and southwest boundary on Summer. These areas contain a variety of retail establishments, supermarkets, garages, among many other services. This is still another reason why commercial zoning be retained to its present locations.

The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association (VECAA) is a non-profit neighborhood organization founded in 1970. Its boundaries are roughly Watkins, Cypress Creek, Trezevant and Overton Park Avenue. VECAA's initial goal was to enhance and maintain a stable biracial community with quality housing, services and facilities. It has been active in promoting stability, assisting in school desegregation, opposing commercial rezoning and in general promoting those activities that serve to create a viable mid-town community.

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

1977 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP 1977

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Send to: Mr. Irvin Sachritz

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Memphis, TN 38107



Around The Neighborhood

The historic Galloway mansion at 1822 Overton Park Avenue was sold at auction on May 7. Dr. MARSHALL L. KOONCE was the high bidder at \$138,000. Although Dr. Koonce plans to move into the 72-year-old house, he is considering possibilities for non-residential usage. He also took an option to buy nine adjacent lots that are zoned for townhouses. . . Little Flower School, 1666 Jackson, is planning a spaghetti-chicken dinner for Friday, June 17. Prices are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. The community is invited. . . Numerous interesting programs are planned for June by the Lewis Center for Senior Citizens. Among them are a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course (beginning June 13), health screening by the Health Department's mobile unit (June 10), cheese tasting party (June 21) and trips to Eureka Springs (June 28-30), St. Louis (July 26-28) and Hawaii (July 12). . . Thanks are due to several Southwestern students who, through the school's Kinney Program and VECAA, "adopted" a house on Oakmont Place. They made minor repairs and have almost finished painting the exterior for a resident that was unable to make improvements herself. . . Congratulations to DICK and JULIE BORYS of 924 N. Idlewild who on March 16 gave birth to ALEXANDER JAMES. Dick is director of the County's Pretrial Services and the family has lived in the community for nearly four years. Alexander has a sister who is 22 months old. . . Welcome to new neighbors BOB and BETH OLSON who moved to 1859 Mignon on April 1. The Olsons are house parents at a group home for teenage girls. In their spare time they run a lapidary business out of their home and Bob points out that he has certain painting and woodworking skills that might be helpful to some of the area's elderly residents. The Olsons have one son, JUSTIN.

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