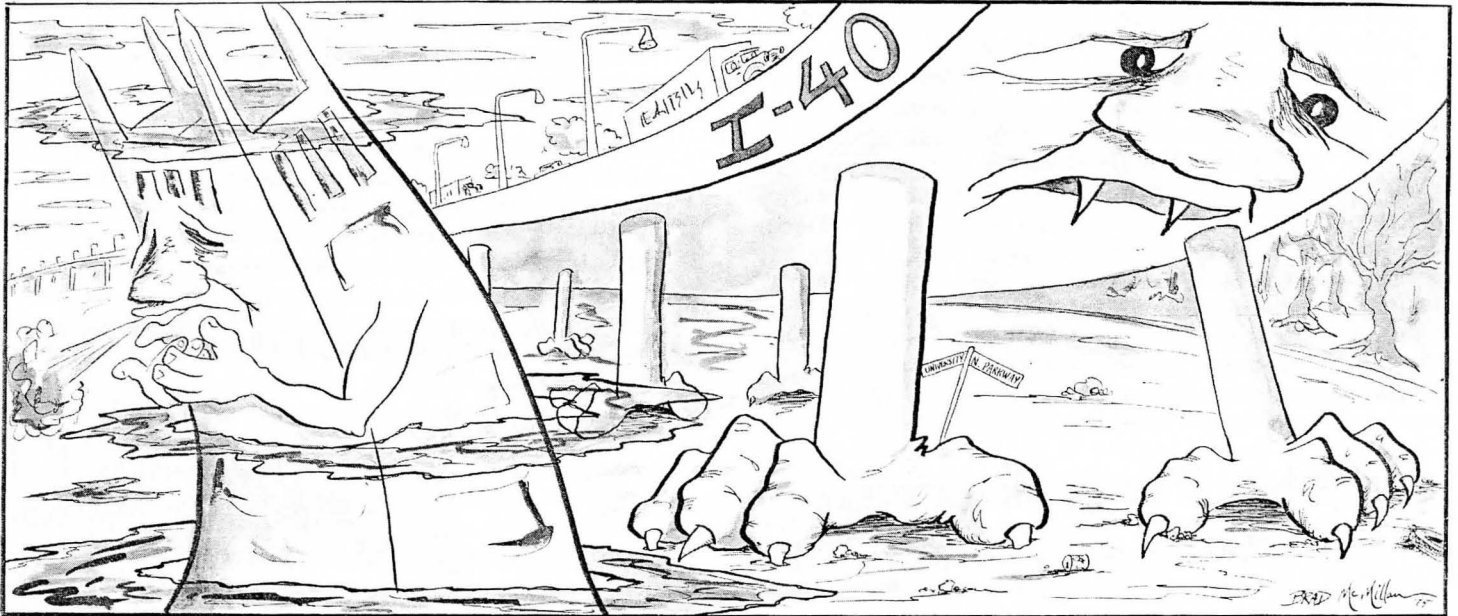


The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association



Parkway Perils

Through a series of neighborhood meetings last month, a campaign was launched to oppose the use of North Parkway for interstate route I-40. The new plan was submitted to Governor RAY BLANTON by Mayor WYETH CHANDLER and County Court Chairman WILLIAM FARRIS in mid-July, but it was later learned that the plan was actually developed by consultants working for Dr. JOHN SHEA, Jr. Although several proposals for routes on or near North Parkway have been made before none have received such strong political endorsement.

This new political interest in North Parkway has caused a strong reaction by the area's residents and a new organization, the North Parkway Association, has been formed to combat it. GUY NORTHRUP, Jr., of 1814 Forrest is chairman and he has enlisted the cooperation of the Hein Park Civic Association, the Mid-Memphis Improvement Association, and the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association. Petitions opposing the route have been signed by over a thousand residents.

Acting on behalf of the concerned organizations, GEORGE E. MORROW of 676 Center Drive sent a letter to Governor Blanton in which he listed reasons for which the plan should be rejected. In his letter he points out that the "plan" really amounts to an architect's tracing of the route and a mock-up

of a cross-section of the proposed elevated expressway. In fact, involved consultants feel that the idea is too embryonic to even give critical consideration.

In opposing the plan Mr. Morrow, an attorney, points out the following drawbacks:

- 1) the proposal is clearly unlawful—the land borders a park and is therefore covered under the protective clause of the Highway Act; in addition, the Parkways are controlled by the Park Commission as if they were city parks;
- 2) the consequences for the neighborhood would be disastrous—residential areas, a school and a college would be affected along with the Parkway;
- 3) the design of this section is unacceptable—the gradient of the curves at either end of the proposed route is too steep and there are no provisions for a parking lane.

Mr. Morrow further pointed out that even considering the plan would have an adverse effect on the neighborhood with present homeowners becoming reluctant to improve their property and potential purchasers becoming discouraged.

Subsequent to Mr. Morrow's letter a planning firm, Colorado Associates, Inc., examined the plan at the request of the North Parkway Association. The consultants pointed out that the materials in support of the plan were inadequate and could not serve as the factual basis for such a proposal. They concluded that the proposed plan is inconsistent with stated City policies with regard to the mid-town area, that it would adversely affect the parkway system, and that the benefits would not outweigh the detrimental effect on the neighborhood and the City. (The consultants went so far as to suggest that the park route as originally proposed would have fewer adverse consequences than the North Parkway route.)

IRVIN SACHRITZ, who lives at 899 Sheridan and is a co-



There will be no general meeting of the Vollintine/Evergreen Community Action Association in August. Watch the News for notice of the next meeting.

Memphis, Tennessee
Volume V, Number 8

8 August, 1975
Circulation: 5750

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chairman of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association, has stated that the organization is definitely opposed to any plan that will affect North Parkway. He stated, "VECAA never took a stand one way or another in regard to the park route because the neighborhood was too split on the issue. The organization did, however, oppose a plan calling for the use of the L & N Railroad right-of-way as it would tend to split and detract from the neighborhood. This plan will be opposed for the same reason. VECAA is definitely supporting the 'Save North Parkway' movement."

In a related development, State Representative PAM GAIA endorsed the suggestion that the Wolf River portion (northern perimeter) of I-240 be redesignated as I-40 to identify it as the main thru-city route rather than the incomplete crosstown route.

The First Hurrah

Residents of the V/E community will get the opportunity this Fall to elect several individuals to public office and this article is the first of several introducing the issues and candidates to the reader.

Most neighborhood residents live within District 5 with regard to both school board and councilmanic representation. This is a predominantly white mid-town district. The area bounded by Vollintine, Evergreen, University and Cypress Creek is gerrymandered into District 7, the predominantly black North Memphis district. (An unsuccessful attempt was made by BECAA this Spring to revise the boundaries to include all of the V/E community in District 5.) Races in these districts will occupy most of our attention in upcoming issues of the News.

V/E voters are registered in the following precincts: 36-1, 36-2, 36-3, 40-2 and 41-2. Small numbers also reside in adjacent precincts. Ward 36 is the predominantly white area south of Vollintine, while precincts 40-2 and 41-2 are racially mixed.

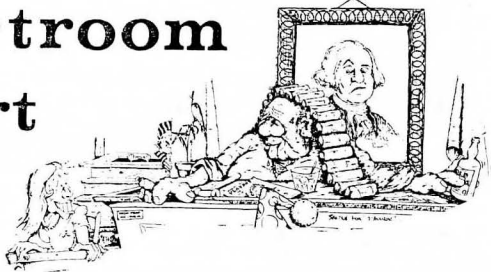
In District 5 BOB JAMES is the incumbent councilman, having served two terms. James is a businessman who will be faced by JIM FIELDS and JOHN "JACK" GIBSON in this Fall's contest. Fields is a former radio announcer and is now in advertising. He lives at 117 N. Willett. Gibson, who lives on Windover, formerly worked as a city planner in Memphis and now teaches city planning at Memphis State.

Our District 7 councilman is presently J.O. PATTERSON and as of this writing two opponents have filed. VELMA LOIS JONES of 1969 Edward is a teacher at Cypress Junior High as well as being the current president of the Memphis branch of the NAACP. Also challenging Patterson is CHARLES NORRIS,

Sr., of 981 Alaska. Norris is an insurance executive who was defeated for office by Patterson in 1967. He also serves as current president of the Kennedy Democratic Club. Patterson has served on the City Council since 1968.

At press time, no one had filed to oppose the present school board members from Districts 5 and 7. FRANCES COE of 262 Stonewall is the representative from District 5 while GEORGE BROWN, a lawyer residing at 1030 Monticello Drive, represents District 7. Both have been on the Board since 1971.

**Courtroom
 Art**



Sunday, August 17, will be a big day for Evergreen News staff artist BRAD McMILLAN. On this day his most recent work will be featured during a reception to be held at Sunshine & Company in Overton Square. The work, a limited edition color print, is a satiric and comic portrayal of an impossible courtroom. It is part of a series by the artist depicting as only he can the more ludicrous aspects of our society.

Brad moved to Memphis in 1972 after living and working throughout the South. He became art editor of the News in January of 1973 and his illustrations have become familiar to most residents of the Vollintine/Evergreen community. Brad, who maintains a studio in his home at 1906 Mignon, has found wide acceptance for his watercolors and prints in the Memphis area.

The reception will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. with the shop, located at 2075 Madison, exhibiting additional works by the artist.

CORRECTION
 In the July issue of the News it was incorrectly stated that "Tony" Evangelisti opened the Weona Food Store on Vollintine in 1939. Actually it was Tony's father who established the store in that year.

staff: editors; rick thomas, george bradfute/news: hershel lipow, marty thomas/art-copy: brad mcmillan/typing: george bradfute, jr., sallee bruhwiler, kendy kallaher/circulation/jean bradfute/business: shirley johnson/printing: courtesy southwestern at memphis

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Dear Editor...

I have been an enthusiastic resident of this neighborhood for over five years. During this time I have invested considerable time and money in improving my property as have many of my neighbors.

Today I heard of the latest proposal that has been put forward concerning the interstate highway through Overton Park. This is the most irresponsible yet; a huge behemoth hovering above North Parkway. We have only to drive under the Union-Walnut Grove connector or the climbing approach to DeSoto Bridge for a glimpse of the dirty, dreary atmosphere created below, where nothing will grow deprived of sun and rain and where filth goes unchecked by washing rains.

Imagine what this will do to Southwestern and Hein Park! It would be the beginning of the end for those two lovely anchors of our community. The decline would be rapid; the entire VECCA area would soon follow! Nothing is more disastrous to a neighborhood than an elevated highway.

I therefore urge you to rally the community to oppose this monstrous proposal. I would appreciate any suggestion you might have on how I can help.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Dille, III, Architect,
1900 Jackson Ave.

Around The Neighborhood

BYRON and MELISSA STAFFORD recently purchased the home at 1419 Faxon. Mr. Stafford is a switchman with the Illinois Central Railroad and Mrs. Stafford is an elementary school teacher. The Staffords are natives of Memphis and members of Merton Avenue Baptist Church. They have a fifteen-month-old daughter, REBECCA.

After renting in the neighborhood for a year, DENNIS and MARCIA HEITZMANN bought the home at 745 Hawthorne. Dr. Heitzmann is the psychological counselor at Southwestern and Mrs. Heitzmann is a former teacher who now concentrates on COLIN, their one-year-old son. The Heitzmanns came from the Chicago area, by way of Austin, Texas, where Dennis earned his Ph.D. In their spare time they are carriers for the Evergreen News.

Congratulations to JAMES B. MITCHELL, Jr., who is the president-elect of the Shelby County Teachers Association. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. JAMES B. MITCHELL, Sr. of 909 Oakmont Place.

One of the newest neighbors in the community is the girl recently born to JOE and MAUREEN HOUGH of 871 University. CAROLINE ELIZABETH—to be called "Carrie"—arrived July 29 and is the Houghs fourth child. Joe is a real estate appraiser and has been active in VECAA since its formation.

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New Snowden Chief

One of the changes to take place at Snowden School this fall is the installation of a new principal. Mr. DON COFFEY will take over there after serving as principal at Macon Elementary School for two years. Mr. Coffey, who lives in Germantown, had previously worked in the certificated personnel division at the Board of Education and served as teacher, coach and administrative aide at Oakhaven High.

Mr. Coffey was born in East Tennessee and originally came to Memphis via an MSU football scholarship. After graduating from there, he played two years of pro football with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Denver Broncos. He returned to Memphis and completed a Master's degree in administrative supervision.

Mr. Coffey plans no major changes for Snowden. He will be hiring a new assistant principal and the school will receive a math and reading instructor under a special program. He is impressed with the enthusiasm displayed by the parents he talked with so far.

Mr. Coffey's wife, PAT, teaches adult education at Shelby State Community College. The Coffeys have two daughters aged ten and twelve.

Ford Opens Office

In attempting to work more closely with his constituents, Eighth District Congressman HAROLD FORD has opened three community offices in Memphis. One of these, called the North Memphis Office, is located in the Vollintine/Evergreen community at 1693 Jackson Avenue. A former laundry-mat, the store was converted into a comfortable office and its opening held July 26. About 150 people joined Congressman Ford and other public officials in the opening ceremonies.

Although community offices are not uncommon, it is unusual to provide three. In fact, his budget for such activities does not allow for this many offices so part of the expenses are covered by the Congressman's personal resources. In extending this open house invitation to the community, Mr. Ford said, "To effectively bridge the gap between government and people, government must extend itself into the community. The people who accept the open house invitation, will feel more comfortable in coming back when they have need of our services. This is the feeling that will make possible the kind of representation we want to provide for the people of the Eighth District."

The office has four full-time employees who are coordinated by CHERRIGALE TOWNSEND. Ms. Townsend also serves as a congressional executive secretary and Memphis appointment secretary for Congressman Ford. This staff will be bolstered by public service employees hired under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act and volunteer interns from Memphis State.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and the staff will provide a wide variety of services. Referral information will be available for those who need assistance for disability or food stamps as well as answers to any questions about various federal programs. Interested parties can find out the status of any piece of legislation and even obtain copies of current bills. This is also where one makes his feelings known on any issue related to federal policies or programs.

Congressman Ford will still maintain an office in the Federal Building but those who want quicker access to the legislator can stop by the North Memphis office or call at 534-4126.

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
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