

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

Circulation: 5,000

Volume IX, Number 7

August 1979

VOLLINTINE COURTS LAST CHANCE RALLY AUGUST 26

Do you care what happens to Vollintine Courts — the large, vacant, deteriorated apartment complex within VECA's boundaries at Vollintine and Watkins? If you do, August 26 at 2:00 p.m. is your last chance to help VECA do something about it! The rally, to be held at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church at Tutwiler and Dickinson, will be the culmination of several months' efforts by VECA to determine if enough people care enough to finance a lawsuit to get something done about this problem. Information regarding the legal situation will be provided, questions will be answered, and pledges and donations will be accepted.

VECA neither favors rehabilitation nor demolition, but simply demands that *something* be done. We all will benefit from increased property values and the improved appearance of our neighborhood if we can obtain the improvement of this large tract of property.

The lack of sufficient donations or pledges is all that is preventing the filing of the lawsuit to ask the federal court to order the owners of Vollintine Courts and the federal, state, and local governments to improve this property. Attorneys living in the VECA area have donated their expertise and time to do the legal work, and they have thoroughly researched the applicable law and drafted the suit.

The anticipated initial out of pocket expenses in a lawsuit of this magnitude are about \$1,500.00. The attorneys filing the suit simply cannot and should not bear this burden, and they will not file the suit until the money has been raised because they become personally liable for the expenses once they do so.

About \$500.00 has been raised so far, and if sufficient response is not obtained from this rally, VECA's efforts to support the filing of this lawsuit will be suspended. Any funds received but not spent will be refunded on a pro rata basis to those who contributed. Come to the rally, but first, clip the coupon from this paper, write a check for the amount that your conscience dictates, and mail it in *now!*

VECA FALL BASH SEPT. 8

Food, fun, and football for the family! Everyone is invited to come on Saturday, September 8th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in front of the gym at Southwestern, for a picnic and games, followed by Southwestern's first football game of the fall at 2:00 p.m.

Bring your own food, beverages, lawn chairs and outdoor game equipment. Soft drinks will be available for purchase. Children's games will be organized. Turn east off of University into the first or second drive south of Jackson Ave. Rain site will be Evergreen Presbyterian Church at University and Tutwiler.

Ya'll come!

CLEAN SWEEP

The combined efforts of Gin Watlington and Jenny Raber of 1470 Tutwiler Avenue, along with City Beautiful, helped make spring cleaning a breeze for the residents of their block. Gin and Jenny requested a City Beautiful truck for the weekend of June 15, 16 and 17, so that they could clean-up left over roofing materials scattered about their yard. Then, the two of them started thinking that their neighbors should have an opportunity to take advantage of the truck being on the block. So, like two little elves in the night, Gin and Jenny posted notices all over the block with the dates and times that the truck would be parked on Tutwiler. In case someone missed seeing the signs, they proceeded to wage an all-out campaign for their neighbors to use the truck by going door-to-door and offering to remove large items for the elderly and reminding everyone that the truck was coming. To insure a minimum of back strain, Gin and Jenny even provided a dolly. The overall effect of the "clean sweep" was great! New neighbors and longtime residents alike pitched in and helped each other clean-up unwanted debris, and clean-out attics and overloaded garages. Amidst all the grunts and groans, a lot of smiles could be seen as everyone began to notice the improvement.

Residents participating in the "clean sweep" included: Jim and Peggy Bushart (1439), Steve Glover (1473), Debbie Kaufman (1470), Mrs. Rosa Lee McGaughy (1462), Frank and Ann Moore (1467), Joe Simmons and sons Curt — age 8 and Vandallas — age 2 (1458), Larry Smalley (1479) and Patty Wilson (1473).

The drivers of the truck were extremely cooperative with everyone involved in the project. The drivers returned three times to dump the over-flowing truck. In addition, Gin and Jenny were given the drivers' office number so that they could call whenever the truck needed emptying. In an effort to make the Tutwiler clean-up easier for the residents, the drivers parked the truck at different spots along the block.

If your street needs a weekend "clean sweep," don't just talk about it. Take that additional step and follow the actions of Gin and Jenny for the betterment of your neighborhood. Remember, the free City Beautiful truck is just a phone call away — 528-2718.

By Jenny Raber

NEXT VECA MEETING

Monday, September 24th at 7:30 P.M., Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Agenda: All political candidates for whom V/E residents can vote invited. Also mark your calendar for VECA's Fall Bash on September 8th and for the Vollintine Courts Rally on August 26th. Everyone welcome.

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH

1792 N. Parkway

Sunday School - 9:30 a. m.

Morning Service - 10:45 a. m.

Evening Service - 6:00 p. m.

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you want the Bible Church"*

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McLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH

*Invites You to Their
Sunday Services*

Bible Study — 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship — 10:50 a.m.

HOME SECURITY

Everyone is concerned with home security, because burglars are breaking into houses everywhere regularly. Insurance may or may not cover the loss. Here are some tips to decrease your chances of being a burglary victim.

1. Watch out for not only your belongings, but also your neighbors'. Know your neighbors! This is the cornerstone of neighborhood security. If you and your neighbors keep an eye on each other's houses, you have constant protection. Be glad that your neighbors are nosy and look outside when a car pulls up to your house. Watch who comes and goes, and know which cars are your neighbors'.

2. If you even suspect that someone is breaking in somewhere, look at the time and don't yell. Call the police at 528-2222 (stick number to your phone) and tell the operator that prowlers are breaking into (give address). If you can, call from somewhere that affords you a view of the burglars and tell the operator the sex, race, age, height, weight, and clothing description for each one and the license numbers of any strange cars nearby. If you can't do that, go to where you can look and not be seen. Watch for the police, so that you can tell them what's happening and give them all the information. **DON'T** scare the burglars off, because **THEY CAN COME BACK**. 80% of the time it is not their first time breaking in, and they won't stop until they get caught.

3. Check all locks on your doors and windows. The dead bolt (\$20 to \$60) is the best kind.

4. Require positive identification of all strangers before opening your door. If you are unsure, call their office or tell them that you are not interested. A burglar could be "casing" your house.

5. The windows most used by burglars are those in the bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom. Lock them.

Install storm windows or burglar bars. Secure window A/C units with "L" brackets.

6. Mark all items of value with your Social Security number. When a thief steals something, he usually will try to sell it. A marked item cannot be easily sold, especially if marked with an engraving tool (available at your nearest fire station for loan for up to three days).

7. Make a list of all your valuables, especially bicycles, TV's, radios, and guns, with the serial number and description of each item. Store the list in a safe place. Take a picture of rings and other small valuables. The police will then know exactly what they are looking for.

8. Lock all bicycles to fixed objects or keep in a safe place.

9. Keep your doors locked at all times, even if only going outside for "a second". Crimes inside the home usually happen when the thief enters through an unlocked door. Replace glass back doors with solid doors. Don't leave keys outside.

10. When on vacation: lock your house; have someone open your house every day and bring in the newspaper (if not stopped) and mail; make it look like someone is at home; have someone move your car around and mow your lawn; encourage a neighbor to use your garbage can; don't leave a light on inside unless you normally do so; advise police that you are going on vacation, who has your house key, and your departure and return dates.

11. Leave porch light on every night — not just when you go out.

12. Remove or keep hedges and shrubs trimmed to allow visibility around your house. Don't block the view of your house from the alley.

13. Vary your work schedule and the time of appointments and errands, so no set routine can be detected if someone is watching your house.

14. Record license numbers of suspicious cars — especially in alleys.

15. Record descriptions of suspicious persons — especially those watching yours or a neighbor's

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

1971 Jackson (at University)

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 A.M. - Mass

9:30 A.M. - Church School

10:30 A.M. - Choral Eucharist

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10:00 A.M. - Holy Communion

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house. Most burglars scout the target house and those near it for activity before deciding to break in. Take a pencil and paper when walking or bike riding.

16. Know when checks and important papers are due and remove them from your mailbox immediately.

17. Most burglars strike between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or in the early evening. Show activity around your house. Socialize with your neighbors; putter around your yards together. You have a lot in common, and there is strength in numbers.

The Police Department has a home security van which will be brought to your block meeting upon request for a presentation. (The North Stonewall Block Association had it on June 12th, and Lt. Jim Myers, Home Security Specialist, gave the presentation, which included many of the tips in this article.) For more information as well as a look at the different types of locks and their effectiveness, call Lt. Myers at 528-2370 and schedule the van. The time will be spent wisely and will be worthwhile in better securing your home.

By: Richard B. Robinson and Johnny Dwyer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is a combination of two articles submitted separately by the two authors, both of whom are VECA residents and officers of the Memphis Police Department.

NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Thomas K. Fagan of 1855 S. Rainbow Drive for winning the election for Presidency of the National Association for School Psychology.

MUSIC by the LeBlanc boys filled the air at MMIA's July 4th picnic. VECA residents attending the picnic took special pride in the talents of Kenneth (14), Tommy (11), and Stephen (7) who live at 770 N. Avalon. Also, a special thank you to these youngsters for delivering **The Evergreen News**.

WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBOR — Jan McPherson of 1418 Tutwiler Avenue.

CONGRATULATIONS to VECA Vice President Frank Moore (1467 Tutwiler Avenue) who was recently elected President of the Council of Mid-Town Neighborhoods, a group of representatives from eleven Mid-Town neighborhood associations whose purpose is to preserve and promote the interests of Mid-Town Memphis as a desirable place in which to live and work.

MEMPHIS HUMANE SOCIETY (272-1753) announces Tag Day — August 4 — Volunteers will be stationed in shopping centers all over town selling pet identification tags. Of the animals picked up by the Society's ambulance, 90% have no ID tags. Should you miss Tag Day, ID tags are available at any time at the Humane Society (710 Philadelphia, 38104) and at most vets. Remember, until you teach your pet to talk, it needs help to find its way back to you.

Address articles or news to **The Evergreen News**,
1467 Tutwiler Ave., Memphis, Tn 38107

VECA NEWS

THE MEMBERSHIP / WELCOMING COMMITTEE'S CHAIRPERSON Julie Borys has reported that the recent membership drive has begun to pay off. VECA has reached the highest paid membership in its history at one hundred fourteen (as of July 5). Although the work of the committee has begun to pay off, we are still far short of the five hundred member goal. Old VECA members will be receiving letters this month asking them to renew their memberships. Volunteers are still needed to work in all areas of VECA. Please contact Julie Borys at 272-2672 if you can spend some time working in your neighborhood spreading the SPIRIT OF VECA.

By Katherine Martin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone within the VECA boundaries — (W) Watkins, (S) Overton Park / I-40 right of way (E) Trezevant / Springdale, (N) Cypress Creek (Edward) — may become a VECA member. Dues are **\$2.50 per person**, and dues are good for one year from the date of payment. See coupon back page.



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Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

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I can volunteer time to the fund drive. Yes _____

Return to: Mrs. Emily Ratner
925 University Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38107

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association
1979 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Membership \$2.50 — Per Person
Make Checks Payable to VECA

Send to: Mr. Tom Kepple
899 Hawthorne
Memphis, TN 38107



METER-OLGY

Many houses in the VECA area were built before 1944, in years during which gas meters were commonly placed inside the house. Present federal safety codes prohibit meter installations indoors, but the gas company is not obligated to move an indoor meter unless the gas line or meter leaks or fails. (If a failure occurs MLG&W will replace the gas pipe and install a new meter outside the house free of charge.) The homeowner with an intact indoor meter may, however, elect to have the gas service moved outdoors at any time, for a minimum charge.

The current base price for moving the meter is \$30.60. This fee includes a new meter, installed at MLG&W's choice of location (usually determined by tracing back along existing gas line to the first spot that is outside the house), new gas line from the meter to the gas main at the street, and a complete safety check of all gas using devices in your home. MLG&W will put the meter in *any* safe location you desire (not on driveways or under windows), but the charge will vary according to the length of new pipe needed, the number of pipe bends necessary to reach your location and the amount of digging involved. Homes with

two or more meters are handled by MLG&W as special cases.

If the safeness and convenience (you won't have to be home to let the meter-reader in) of an outdoor meter appeal to you, and you have better use for the meter-occupied space in your kitchen closet, contact the Gas Engineering Dept. at MLG&W for an appointment (528-4611). A service representative will come out to trace the gas lines in your home and suggest a position for the new meter. Be sure to inform him of any house or driveway additions you may be contemplating because the price of moving the gas line at a later date is \$461 per lateral foot. After you agree on a location the representative will figure the cost and set a work-date; the entire relocation, including relighting all pilot lights and checking the system overall, usually takes one day. MLG&W will backfill, pack and resod any ground damaged by digging and make necessary repairs to sidewalks. The utility company must and will respond to any reasonable complaint about the work done; remember to record the name of the service representative who makes the initial inspection so that you may refer to him with any problems.

Charges for the job will be included in your next utility bill or you may make arrangements with MLG&W for deferred payments. For further information call the Gas Engineering Dept. at 528-4566 or Customer Service at the main office, 523-0711.

By Lew Griffith

Published by **VECA**

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PRINTING COURTESY SOUTHWESTERN

Deadline for copy and ads for September issue is August 2nd. Deadline for copy and ads for October issue is September 6th.

NOTE: The Evergreen News staff currently meets monthly on the 1st Thursday. If you'd like to participate, call Ann Moore at 274-2163 or Fran Griffith at 276-9162.

Owner Virginia Miller Welcomes
Outside Clients

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or Marcia Heitzman 276-6084

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Morning Worship — 11:00 a.m.
Church Pastor
274-1820 323-6400