

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

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NO I-40 THROUGH VECA

For the first time ever, the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation has retreated from its rigid, I-40 through Overton Park position and has asked the City and County Mayors to propose an alternative plan to better connect the two incomplete ends of I-40. After attending the VECA meeting on July 23, 1979, several other neighborhood meetings, receiving a position paper from the VECA Executive Committee, receiving numerous calls from VECA residents, and meeting with Mayors Chandler and Morris together with representatives from VECA and other neighborhood groups, Michael Ritz, Director of Planning for Memphis and Shelby County (along with Maynard Stiles, Director of Public Works) was directed by Mayor Chandler on August 2, 1979, to design a technical, written plan with alternatives and options, to better connect the two incomplete ends of I-40, taking into consideration the input received from VECA residents and other neighborhood groups, and protecting neighborhoods as much as possible.

After the specific plan is designed, it is to be presented to representatives from VECA and other groups for discussion and suggestions. According to Mayor Chandler, only after full opportunity has been provided for neighborhood input and agreements and compromises have been reached as much as possible, will the plan be submitted to the State. Then the "normal project development process" will begin, which includes environmental impact statements and public hearings on the plan. This process could take up to two or three years.

What are the specifics of the plan, as now envisioned? The City and County have indicated a willingness to agree that there will be no I-40, or anything similar, between E. Parkway and Cleveland; that all interstate and all truck traffic will be routed by signs and maps onto I-240; and that No. Parkway will not be widened and its median strip will remain as is. The plan will call for Poplar to be signalized like Union is now, so that there are four lanes westbound in the morning rush and four lanes eastbound in the evening rush; for No. Parkway lights to be synchronized; for limited access (interstate-type) roads to be built up to E. Parkway on the east and up to Cleveland on the west, with interchanges at each end. West-bound commuter traffic would be diverted onto East Parkway to Poplar, with the entrance back onto the highway at Cleveland. East-bound commuter traffic would be diverted onto Cleveland to No. Parkway, with the entrance back onto the highway at E. Parkway. All turns would be right-hand turns and would not cut across traffic.

The City government and many city-wide groups insist that the mobility of east-west commuter traffic along or near the I-40 corridor must be improved, and a response will be submitted to the State's request. The formulation of this plan is unique, however, because input from neighborhood groups is being sought out, instead of the past practice of the government just dictating how city streets would be built or changed.

Another important feature of the plan, and perhaps the most uniformly locally accepted part, is for the

(Continued on Last Page)

SUMMER SIDEWALK BUFFET

The idea for the Lyndale-Hawthorne-Mignon Sunday Summer Sidewalk Buffet began quite simply. Odessa Snead, Freda Ward and Minnie and Ken Young were sitting out in the yard one evening and began sharing memories of family get-togethers and huge old-fashioned picnics in the park. "It seemed natural to extend this idea to our neighborhood," says Mrs. Young. "There are a lot of neighbors that you just wave to and this was a good way to get to know them better."

After the idea came the work. Freda Ward undertook the task of passing out or, in some cases, hand-delivering a bulletin about the event and a sign-up sheet. Neighbors indicated the dish they would be bringing and who would be coming from their households. Response was good and "soon we had quite a list of food and people," according to Miss Ward.

Even though the first planned date was rained out, when the buffet was rescheduled for the first Sunday in June, about fifty people came to eat lunch in the shade of the trees on Lyndale. Among those families attending were the Baines, Bramuchis, Browns, Davids, Elcans, Graves, Haynes, James, Jones, Lesters, Morris, Papachristous, Rhodes, Tulleys, Wards and the Youngs. Also Bea Thompson, Mildred Reed, Pauline Taylor, Charlie Bell Cauthen and Bobby Tracy.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, and there were still members of the "neighborhood family" visiting and talking in front yards well after all the food had disappeared. And Freda Ward hasn't stopped thinking and planning. "I think what we need next is an end-of-the-summer bar-b-que with lots of vegetables from our gardens!"

By Tina Egge

NEXT VECA MEETING

Monday, September 24th at 7:30 P.M., Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Agenda: All political candidates for whom VECA residents can vote invited. Also mark your calendar for VECA's Fall Bash at Southwestern on September 8th. Everyone Welcome!

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MEET SNOWDEN'S NEW PRINCIPAL

Ronnie Bynum, the new principal of Snowden School, thinks that learning ought to be fun. "If children spend one-third of their waking hours in school, it should be interesting, creative and exciting." He really enjoys working with children and young people and is looking forward to the opening of school. "Snowden has a tremendous reputation, and I look forward to joining the team. I'm going to be the Chief Greenie (Snowden's mascot)."

Snowden's new leader has a B.S. in Elementary Education from The University of Tennessee at Martin and a Masters plus thirty hours in Educational Administration and Supervision from Memphis State University.

He has taught sixth grade, supervised teachers in the National Teacher Corps and participated in the Memphis City Schools Intern Program where he worked with seven different principals over the course of a year. As an administrator, he has served as assistant principal of Humes Junior High, principal of Pope Elementary and for the last six years as principal of Westwood Elementary — which for five of those years was the largest elementary school in Tennessee.

Bynum has lots of enthusiasm and plans for Snowden. "All of our programs will be better because of the increased space and facilities that the new wing and renovations will make possible. I'm especially excited about our kindergarten. We're expanding to two classes and an open, free-flowing space concept. Our 5 year-olds and their parents will be in for quite a treat."

Besides all these new things, Bynum is also stressing the memories of the school. "I'm an antique lover and there is a lot of nostalgia in these halls." One of his first tasks has been to polish and display some of the school's athletic trophies which date back to the early part of the century.

As far as other plans for Snowden, Bynum wants to get to know the faculty and the Snowden community

and wants them to get to know him. "I want to make myself available to students, parents and community groups and to build a confidence level so that we all can continue to improve Snowden in the way it has grown in the past."

The new principal is looking forward to a great year for Snowden. "I don't know why anyone would get into this business if he didn't love helping young people with their successes and failures. Teaching and working with children and teenagers is just plain fun."

By Tina Egge

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association) has recently established a housing program which provides information, referral and counseling to individuals over sixty who are considering changes in their living arrangements.

We have researched housing opportunities for the elderly in the Memphis area and find that there are a number of options available. A person who no longer wishes the full responsibility of homeownership may reduce living expenses and find companionship and increased security by sharing a home or apartment with a compatible person of similar background and interests. Arrangements can be made for younger persons — even students — to join older persons in economically advantageous housing. MIFA will maintain a list of persons who wish to share a home and current information about well-located apartments and non-profit sponsored high-rise apartments. A housing counselor is available to discuss various options.

Several group residences will be established in which compatible individuals may choose to live together and provide support for each other. MIFA will manage the houses and provide additional services based on the needs of the residents.

For additional information, contact a housing counselor at MIFA at 527-0208.

June — MIFA NEWSLETTER

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7:30 A.M. - Mass

9:30 A.M. - Church School

10:30 A.M. - Choral Eucharist

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VECA NEWS

You're invited. Preparations for the September Bash on the grounds of Southwestern College (meet in front of the gym) are being finalized. Plan to spend an enjoyable day picnicing with your friends and neighbors on September 8th from 11 A.M. 'til 2 P.M. followed by Southwestern's first football game. Drinks will be available; each family should plan their own picnic lunch. Rain site is Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Everyone welcome!

Through the efforts of the Membership/Welcoming Committee, VECA membership now stands at approximately 130 (as of August 1st)! If you have friends or neighbors who are not VECA members, please emphasize the importance of a strong neighborhood organization to them and encourage them to join.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held September 24, 1979. Please attend.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW THIS FALL

It is not all books that are as dull as their readers. There are probably words addressed to our condition exactly, which if we could really hear and understand, would be more salutary than the morning or the spring to our lives, and possibly put a new aspect on the face of things for us.

Henry David Thoreau

For more than thirty years midtown Memphians have had an opportunity through Continuing Education at Southwestern to encounter the kind of ideas that can put a new aspect on the face of things and the kind of knowledge that can revive old interests or stimulate new ones. This fall the non-credit program offers a wider range of courses than ever before. Courses beginning in October include:

- The Atom, Appalachia and the Cherokee—a New Fusion
- Mother: An Endangered Species?
- Genes and Genetic Engineering

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 A Journey through Narnia

Early registration is advised, since enrollment will be limited. To reserve a place or to request more information, call 274-6606 or 274-6632.

By Ellen Baer

NEWS BRIEFS

THANK YOU MARY C. MORRIS OF ACTION IDEA MOTIVATORS, 1672 Vesey Avenue (near Lamar and Rozelle), 38114, phone 274-2600. Mrs. Morris is active in the Rozelle-Annesdale Neighborhood Association; and through her specialty advertising business and her cooperation, VECA T-shirts and bumper stickers will be available in September.

THANK YOU WARREN LOWRY OF SCREEN GRAPHICS, 3156 Connahbrook Drive, phone 396-0765. Mr. Lowry, a former VECA member who no longer resides in the V/E area, was active in the original design of the VECA logo. Recently, he donated his services to complete the redesign.

NEW NEIGHBORS — Wayne and Cathy Handley family, 1456 Tutwiler Avenue; George E. and Nancy Tiller, Jr. of 1469 Snowden Avenue. Welcome to the neighborhood!

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP CONTINUES to be supported by V/E area residents. Charles Mosby and Tom Fagan of S. Rainbow Drive distributed a written notice to neighbors for July 13-16; and The North Stonewall Block Association announced at their August 13th monthly meeting that the free City Beautiful truck would be parked on their block August 17-18. If you too need to clean up some unwanted "junk" — call for the free City Beautiful truck: 528-2718.

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

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

1979 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

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(Continued from First Page)

Mayors and the Governor to ask the U. S. Secretary of Transportation to remove the unbuilt segment of I-40 from the national interstate system and to pay to local government the amount of federal funds which would have been used to build it — now estimated at \$219 million. This enormous amount of money could then be used for improvements to the local transportation system, such as the widening of I-240 South and I-240 Midtown (King Expressway), more buses, and improvement of other city streets. There is a deadline for exercising this "trade-in" option, and time is running short so all concerned have urged that no time be wasted in convincing the State D.O.T. to recommend that the Governor join the Mayors in making this request.

VECA's Executive Committee issued the following statement on this matter on July 31, 1979:

"We have serious questions and deep reservations about the current "concept" by the City and County to make changes in the roadways and traffic patterns connecting the two ends of I-40 on the east and west sides of Overton Park and believe that adequate justification for the necessity of it must be provided. Implementation of any proposal that tends to divide, isolate, and/or irreparably damage the V.E.C.A. area would be harmful to the City as a whole.

"At a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership of the Association on July 23, 1979, there was unanimous and intense opposition from those persons speaking out to the City and County's current concept. A motion was unanimously approved to authorize the Executive Committee of V.E.C.A. to prepare and issue a statement of the Association's position relative to such proposed changes and to serve as or designate a liaison with the appropriate governmental authorities.

"We feel very strongly about being consulted and providing input before and during the planning of any major changes of this nature in our area and being kept promptly informed as further details become available so that we can make appropriate constructive responses.

"We strongly support the maintenance of the residential character of the V.E.C.A. area, and the preservation of North Parkway with its present median strip as a scenic, residential street.

"We favor the widening of I-240 South and the King Interstate (as long as the neighborhoods in those areas are not irreparably damaged), and the routing of all Interstate and all truck traffic around I-240.

"We will be happy to respond further to any definite, detailed, written plan that may be proposed."

All written comments and suggestions on this matter are solicited and should be mailed to Frank Moore, 1467 Tutwiler Ave., Memphis Tn. 38107.

By Frank Moore

BROOKS MEMORIAL ART GALLERY DOCENT TRAINING

Explore the exciting world of art by becoming a Brooks Memorial Art Gallery Docent. Training includes films, lectures, field trips and discussions with guest artists. Following training, volunteer docents are channeled according to their interest and abilities into the Gallery's various educational programs. Training begins September 10th and runs through November. For further information — contact Diana Prewitt, Curator of Education, 726-5266.

By Bea Carps

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