

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

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PROGRESS ON VOLLINTINE COURTS

Since early this year, VECA has solicited pledges and donations to support the expenses of a proposed lawsuit to insure that local, state and federal officials enforce existing laws and regulations as they apply to the tract of property known as Saints Courts (formerly Vollintine Courts). VECA neither favors rehabilitation nor demolition, but simply contends that the current state of the property is intolerable. The following is a recap of recent meetings and consequent developments.

On August 26th a meeting was held at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church to assess the Vollintine courts fund status and to determine any future action by VECA regarding this matter. Jan Rochester, who assisted Tom Turley with the legal research and preparation of the lawsuit, answered questions and clarified the intent of the litigation. Joe Hough reported that approximately \$550 in donations and pledges (from 39 people) was the financial response of V/E residents to date. He added that an undetermined number of residents had verbally promised monetary support but had not submitted written pledges. Notable non-VECA residents in attendance included State Representative Pam Gaia and President of Rozelle-Annesdale Area Association Stoy Bailey. After a general discussion, the group concluded that: 1) Although VECA has repeatedly sought solutions through several City agencies — particularly Community Development — that the time was right to meet with Mayor Chandler in an effort to obtain a remedy; 2) Efforts to collect funds for the lawsuit would continue concurrently with efforts to remedy the problem through the political process; 3) Bertha Ching (1025 Monticello) volunteered to secure written statements from V/E residents, especially those in the immediate vicinity of Vollintine Courts, expressing the problems caused by the current state of this property; 4) VECA's President, Margaret Dichtel, agreed to schedule a meeting of V/E residents with Mayor Chandler during the following week.

Mayor Chandler was most cooperative in arranging a meeting with V/E area residents (including VECA officers) on August 29th at his office. In anticipation of this meeting, he had investigated the chain of events leading to the current Vollintine Courts situation. He explained the City's reluctance to pursue condemnation if rehabilitation funding can possibly be obtained by the owners. He then consulted by telephone with Gwen Awsumb, Director of Community Development, who informed him that the Nashville HUD Office advised that a decision on the owners' third loan application would be forthcoming within 30 days.

Mayor Chandler assured the group that he would direct the following action: 1) The grass would be cut immediately; 2) An exterminator for the rats would be sent out immediately; 3) The owners would be asked to continue this maintenance, and if they fail to do so, the City will maintain the property and bill the owners; 4) The police would be directed to patrol the area frequently to discourage trespassers; 5) Ms. Awsumb would be directed to daily pursue a permanent solution.

Mayor Chandler mentioned several possibilities including owner rehabilitation, property demolition, or purchase and rehabilitation as low income housing by Community Development. Chandler stated that if owner rehabilitation is not possible, Ms. Awsumb will immediately go forward with condemnation procedures. If this happens, Chandler agreed that Ms. Awsumb should obtain VECA input regarding future use of the property. Mayor Chandler pledged that VECA would be kept informed of developments as they occur. VECA expressed its appreciation for Mayor Chandler's receptive attitude and direct action.

VECA's presentation included newspaper reports, *E/News* clippings and several letters by V/E residents detailing Vollintine Courts related complaints, which were reinforced by dialogue from Jane Collins (1031 Garland) recounting personal experiences and observations. Chuck Scruggs emphasized the need for regular maintenance of the property while awaiting a more permanent solution. Mayor Chandler said that interim complaints should be directed to Gwen Awsumb.

Following this meeting, Margaret Dichtel told reporters that VECA would delay filing of the lawsuit for at least 30 days. However, since a permanent solution has not yet been attained, VECA will continue to solicit pledges and donations for the Vollintine Courts Fund in the event that the lawsuit must be filed. Whether you can pledge 50 cents or 50 dollars, your pledge is proof positive that you care. Send your pledge or check (include your name, address, phone # and the amount of your pledge) to VECA-VOLLINTINE COURTS FUND, c/o Mrs. Emily Ratner, 925 University Street, 38107. Any funds received but not spent will be returned to contributors on a pro rata basis. Letters expressing your complaints or views regarding Vollintine Courts should be mailed to Frank Moore, 1467 Tutwiler Avenue, 38107.

By Ann D. Moore

NEXT VECA MEETING

Monday, September 24th at 7:30 P.M., Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Agenda: Political Rally. The following regularly scheduled membership meeting will be held at the same time and place on Monday, November 26th. Everyone Welcome!

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH
1792 N. Parkway

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Morning Service - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

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EDITORIAL

E/NEWS COVERAGE BANNED

While the *E/News* would like to have only good news to report, we now feel obligated to report and to comment on a confusing and distressing incident. The residents of Oakmont Place and Hallwood, within VECA's boundaries, had an outdoor block party on their streets on July 28, 1979; and the *E/News* was told that its reporters could not attend and that no coverage by the *E/News* was desired. In fact, the *E/News* was first invited and later told that only house guests of residents could attend.

This was not a small private party in someone's home, but a block party with city permission to close the streets and news coverage by a local television station. The *E/News* felt that this party was a significant neighborhood event that the residents involved would like reported, that the rest of the V/E area would be interested in hearing about, and that might encourage other blocks to hold similar parties affording neighbors the opportunity to get to know each other better.

A VECA member (speaking as the block's representative) advised the *E/News* that, for reasons not clear to us, an unspecified number of residents of those blocks did not want coverage by the *E/News* before or after the event, so we assented reluctantly. When this issue was raised by the *E/News* before the VECA Executive Committee on August 21st, those present unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the *E/News* policy — which is to *print the news* and, if access to news is limited to print why (as any responsible newspaper would). The Executive Committee was shocked and dismayed to learn that there is a portion of the V/E area with this apparent attitude toward the *E/News* and/or VECA.

A spirit of mutual neighborliness and cooperation which results in common benefits (like the *E/News*, which is published as a community service) cannot succeed where there are attitudes such as those that

seem to prevail on Oakmont/Hallwood. Let's all do what we can to overcome such isolationist feelings. If you know anyone on these streets, talk to them. Find out what the problem is and discuss solutions.

Why would anyone not want their neighborhood newspaper to cover their block party? Residents of these streets with reservations about VECA or the *E/News* are encouraged to state them by letters to the Editor, contacting a member of the Executive Committee, or making a statement at a general membership meeting. Positive feedback is, of course, equally solicited. Misunderstandings will never be resolved unless they are brought out into the open.

By Ann D. Moore

VECA NEWS

VECA BUMPER STICKERS are now available. If you missed the opportunity to purchase yours from Katherine Martin at VECA's Fall Bash on September 8th, don't despair. The striking green and white decals will be on sale at all future VECA meetings for \$1.00. Here's your chance to display pride in your neighborhood and add a little class to your bumper!

THE EVERGREEN NEWS NEEDS volunteers, especially reporters and writers. Articles may be your own topics or given assignments and should be 250 to 400 words in length (if more coverage is needed, write in series form to run in successive issues). The key to the success of a neighborhood newspaper is resident involvement. If you can help — call Ann Moore at 274-2163 or Fran Griffith at 276-9162, attend the next monthly staff meeting at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian on October 4th at 7:30 P.M., or mail articles to the *E/News*, 1467 Tutwiler Avenue, 38107, (regular staff meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month). Your participation is vital.

VECA BOUNDARIES ARE: (W) WATKINS, (S) I-40 RIGHT OF WAY/OVERTON PARK, (E) TREZEVANT/SPRINGDALE, (N) CYPRESS CREEK.

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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ON SCREEN AT THE EVERGREEN

A new movie theater has come to midtown. The old Moviehouse Showcase on Poplar at Evergreen became THE EVERGREEN on August 16th. And it's a real family undertaking. Two brothers, Charles and John Canon, have bought it; and Charles and his family are running it. That means wife Billie and sons Dan, David and Harmon are all involved in and excited about this new project.

Along with the new name comes a new concept. "We live on Galloway and are very interested in the midtown area. We want to have movies that everyone in the neighborhood can come to," says Billie.

There are lots of plans in store for THE EVERGREEN. Already a lot of cleaning and sprucing up has been going on. Eventually the old marquee will come down. Also, the Canons hope to offer reduced rates for special groups and senior citizens. "We'd love - perhaps at some future time - to work into special programs (like magic shows) and movies for children on Saturdays and maybe even special family nights every so often." Another dream is to be able to show some of the old classics.

THE EVERGREEN presently has shows nightly at 7 and 9 P.M. And, with shows like "101 Dalmations" and "A Force of One," the families and neighbors of this area have an opportunity for an evening's entertainment close to home.

By Tina Egge

COMMUNITY WELCOME AT SAM BOOK STORE

The convenience of neighborhood shopping coupled with full-service facilities await you at Southwestern's Book Store. SAM's Book Store is located on the main floor - left or west side - of the Student Center. (Turn east off University into the third driveway south of Jackson - opposite Snowden Avenue - into the parking lot. The Student Center is the second building directly east of the parking lot).

Naturally, textbooks for Southwestern students are in stock. Surprisingly, however, the inventory offers a remarkable diversity of both paperback and hardcover volumes including almanacs, cookbooks, do-it-yourself books, dictionaries, crossword puzzle books, plus current novels and best sellers such as *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* and the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. The children's books displayed range from old standards and classics - *Heidi*, *Black Beauty*, *Nancy Drew*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Winnie the Pooh* and the wonderful stories by Beatrix Potter, Tasha Tudor and Hans Christian Andersen - to more contemporary publications suitable for young readers.

A complimentary selection of school and office supplies, art supplies, stationery, greeting cards and desk accessories are also available. Additionally you will find a miscellaneous array of items to satisfy the needs of both student and V/E area shoppers. This assortment includes: T-shirts; jogging shorts; toiletries from shampoo to razors; Southwestern bumper stickers, ashtrays and decals; Southwestern post-cards and prints; film; kites; totebags; umbrellas; and even shoe laces.

So, discover for yourself the multiple services and friendly atmosphere of your neighborhood Southwestern Book Store.

By Ann D. Moore

NEWS BRIEFS

COME TO SOUTHWESTERN and discuss SALT or energy or the media or hypertension or cloning or Aristotle or C. S. Lewis. Informal non-credit courses will soon begin at the Meeman Center for Continuing Education. Call 274-6606 for more information.

WELCOME HOME to Dr. and Mrs. W. Franklin Pearson, 1852 Tutwiler, who completed an eleven day tour of Europe sponsored by Shaklee Food Supplements in August.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Whitten, Jr. of 1855 N. Rainbow Drive, who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on September 1st.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

You're invited to VECA's next regularly scheduled general membership meeting that will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, September 24th, at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church (Dickinson and Tutwiler). The agenda for this meeting: MEET THE CANDIDATES. Written invitations were mailed (on August 15) to all qualified candidates in contested races for Memphis municipal elections — October 4, 1979 — for whom V/E area residents may vote. Those invited:

MAYOR

Robert Hodges
W. Otis Higgs, Jr.
Wyeth Chandler

Issac Richmond
Pat Halloran

CITY COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 5

Robert B. James
John C. Vergos

Richard Steven Crane

CITY COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 7

J. O. Patterson, Jr.
Drucilla Richmond Hayden

Gary L. Rowe

CITY COUNCILMAN, AT LARGE, POS. 1

Pat Vanderschaaf

Francis Tapp

CITY COUNCILMAN, AT LARGE, POS. 2

Tom Todd
Kenneth Denney Thomas

Silky Sullivan

CITY COUNCILMAN, AT LARGE, POS. 3

Edward (Jackie) Burse
Perry M. Boling

Oscar H. Edmonds, Jr.
Joan Elizabeth Keith

CITY COUNCILMAN, AT LARGE, POS. 4

Barbara Sonnenburg
Cliff Tuck

H. B. McAdams
Jesse E. Neely

CITY COUNCILMAN, AT LARGE, POS. 6

Jeff Sanford

Willie Smith

BOARD OF EDUCATION AT LARGE, POS. 1

Bert Prosterman
Dan Leach
Roland T. Woodson

Melvin Cagan
Carlton H. Bowyer

BOARD OF EDUCATION, AT LARGE, POS. 2

Mary Lou Lane

James C. Blackburn

BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5

J. C. Williams

Martine C. Madlinger

JUDGE, CITY COURT, DIVISION 3

Nancy Sorak

Albert H. Boyd

CITY COURT CLERK

Joyce J. McMackin
Jan Long

W. Page Gregory
Ronald David Foster

Sandra Busby Marshall
Edward J. Bousson
J. C. (Jim) Bartholomew
Irene Davis Thompson

Gene Bradberry
Ray Daniels
William C. (Bill) Hogg

Invited candidates will speak on a first come — first served basis. Due to the large number of candidates, speaking times will be limited. This political rally promises to be an informative meeting. See you on September 24th!



VECA NEEDS a recording secretary. In recent months, Barb McKee has served VECA well in this office — thank you Barb. The duties are recording the minutes of monthly Executive Committee meetings and bimonthly VECA general membership meetings. This is an important position and if you can volunteer, contact Margaret Dichtel at 274-2026 (evenings) or Frank Moore at 274-2163 (evenings).

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

1979 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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



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Deadline for copy and ads for November issue is October 4th. Deadline for copy and ads for December issue is November 1st.

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