

The EVERGREEN NEWS

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The crest in the corner of the Mike Rivalto family's new home once stood for Clarence Saunders Sole Owner.

FROM GROCERIES TO GREENHOUSE

Who would have ever thought of turning the old grocery store into a showplace home?

Mike and Becky Rivalto, that's who.

In October, the Rivalto's bought an old building on McLean between North Parkway and Faxon with the idea of converting it into a totally self-contained home. Rivalto looked for a year to find a building with enough square footage and ceiling height to convert into a three-bedroom, four-bath home with den, bar, patio area, indoor pool, greenhouse and two-car garage, all within four walls. Rivalto claims his home "will be a real showplace and will be written up in magazines."

The building appears to have been built about 1916 and was first used as a Piggly Wiggly grocery store. The only thing remaining of that old store are concrete or stone crests in the upper corners of the front facade which read "CSSO" and stand for Clarence Saunders Sole Owner. At one point the building was sold to Walter Chandler, former Memphis mayor and the father of the current mayor. In its history, it has been used as four different grocery stores and a laundrette. Recently, it was owned by the National Cotton Council who leased it as a storage warehouse.

All the "dirty work" was done by Mike Rivalto. He ripped out a wood lathe ceiling, tore out old partitions, uncovered old brick walls and hauled away about 16 dump truck loads of debris. He plans to restore the front facade to its original appearance and will replace the tin roof with copper for appearance.

The now empty shell is expected to be completely finished in about six months. While the Rivalto's have no family ties to the VECA area, they like the neighborhood and invite folks to stop by and watch their progress.

By Frank Moore and D. Carlisle

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

The people of Central Gardens were tired of hearing about the increased crime rate in their neighborhood. So they contacted Universal Investigative Services at 2011 Union Avenue to see what could be done about protecting their families and homes. Now the area (emcompassing nearly 500 families) is patrolled seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each family participating has a special telephone sticker with the number of a direct line to the patrol car(s) to secure help when necessary. The car will be on the scene within a matter of minutes to investigate whatever the problem may be. Families going out of town notify the service office so extra attention can be given to their homes by checking doors, windows and so forth. Intruders are generally noticed as the same patrollers are assigned to the Central Garden area on a regular basis, and they are familiar with all the neighborhood people. Within a year and a half, the crime rate in the Central Garden area has been significantly reduced. For example, there were generally 12 burglaries a month; now there are none. There used to be six to eight car thefts a month; now the figure shows zero to one a month with usual recovery of the automobile. Dozens of arrests have been made. Universal boasts that during holiday seasons there are often 20-70 "empty homes," and there have been no reported break-ins.

A monthly fee of \$17 from each of the participating families seems well worth the protection and security provided. (The cost will vary with the number of families participating.)

A neighborhood (or two or three going together to help decrease cost) should be organized prior to contacting any investigative service. As Tom Givens of Universal states it takes quite some time to set it up and put the written proposal into a workable plan and then into effect without proper organization.

The people of Central Gardens are extremely happy for having initiated the service. If you are interested in participating in a similar service, attend the VECA meeting February 1, 1981, or contact Tom Kepple (272-9571).

By Susan Helms

NEXT VECA MEETING

Sunday, February 1, 1981, 2 p.m. Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Buddy Chapman of the Memphis Police Department will be the speaker.

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VECA NEWS

Since the last publication of **The E-News**, the VECA executive committee has met twice, and the general membership met on November 24. The following are issues under discussion by VECA at this time:

Street lights and signs—The Cooper-Young area is having new street lights installed, and the VECA area is slated to be next on the list for the energy-efficient street lights. Also the old concrete street signs are being replaced with the standard green signs.

Rainbow Circle—The executive committee asked Tim Mashburn to serve as a representative from VECA to work with the residents on Rainbow Circle to resolve the issue over the mental health facility planned for that neighborhood.

Guard service—Due to the rash of burglaries in the neighborhood, VECA is looking into the feasibility of a guard service similar to the one in Central Gardens.

Membership—Julie Borys and her committee are considering proposals to offer one-time sustaining memberships as well as a Senior Citizen discount. It was suggested that a month in the spring be designated as membership month.

Neighborhood task force—Frank Moore reported on a task force set up by the City Council to encourage better communication between neighborhood organizations and city government. The task force set up a system for communication as well as guide lines for neighborhood groups.

Fair Housing Corporation—Mike Collins of the FHC, a private company funded through the Office of Community Development told the executive committee of the prepurchase and pre-rental counseling provided by his company free to consumers. The primary function of the FHC is to educate the

community about housing laws and will work with consumers who have run across illegal housing practices. Fair Housing Corporation is located at 166-A Poplar.

The program for the general membership meeting was presented by Peggy Jamison and Madelyn Conrad of the Metropolitan InterFaith Association and dealt with the history of the I-40/Overton Park controversy.

The next general membership meeting was set for February 1, 1981, at 2 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Buddy Chapman of the Memphis Police Department will be the speaker.

By D. Carlisle

NEWS BRIEFS

VECA: A NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS reads the teaser on the cover of the Winter, 1981 issue of *Memphis Home/Garden Magazine* available on area newsstands. Larry Conley's article is titled "VECA. . . A True Community Success Story in Our City" and was naturally well-received by those purchasing copies at the November 24th VECA meeting. VECA owes a special "Thank You" to publisher Adam Ballinger who personally authorized a 50¢ per copy donation to VECA for each of the 30 issues sold at that meeting. VECA purchased copies for the VECA Office, the main library, MIFA (Metropolitan InterFaith Association), Community Development, City council, Memphis Board of Realtors, FHA, and the Midtown Council of Neighborhoods.

By Ann D. Moore

OUR MISTAKE

In our last issue we incorrectly reported that Trinity Kindergarten paid rent to Trinity United Methodist Church. Sorry.

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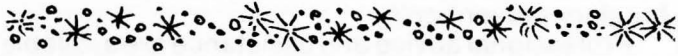
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NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT SCHOOL

The new Snowden Community School, which ended a successful first term on December 9th, has promise of being an even more valuable community resource in the new year to come. The next term will begin on Tuesday, January 20th, with some new classes and some old favorites returning, and all VECA residents are invited to enroll.

Snowden School is one of five pilot community education projects in the city schools, and planning for the program began last year under a grant from the Mott Foundation to the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. This year support has also come from the Memphis Junior League. Last September Snowden's program opened with courses that included Auto Maintenance, Exercise for Women, Stained Glass, Pottery, Beledi ("belly") dancing, and Holiday Cooking. Class fees were very reasonable, ranging from \$4.00-\$7.00 for four week sessions. If you or your neighbors were enrolled in any of these, you know how much they were enjoyed.

Sessions for the spring term will again take place on Tuesday nights for six weeks each. There will be help for the inflation-battered in household repairs and maintenance, tax form aid, and family planning. And the popular classes in exercise, belly dancing and pottery will return. Of course, the nursery will be open and free tutoring available for school children.

Look for announcements of specific courses and application forms in early January on the community school posters around the VECA neighborhood. Or call Snowden School (274-4500) or Madelyn Conrad (278-9559) for information. Your suggestions about courses and people to teach them are very welcome.

Come make Snowden a real **community** school!

By Madelyn Conrad

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL UPDATE

C&I Bank "adopted" Snowden Junior High School January 6, 1980. Since that time many contributions have been made to improve the school's academic and sports programs, to enhance the school's physical appearance and to promote school spirit. According to Don Berge, spokesman for C&I Bank and also a VECA resident, there is a very active and involved adopt-a-school committee. Ongoing projects, support systems and contributions to Snowden Junior High School have included:

- establishing the C&I Outstanding Student. An all-round ninth grade achiever is recognized with a trophy and a savings bond. A permanent plaque has also been placed in the school to include the name and date of all outstanding students in years to come.
- having an Honor's Day. A savings bond is given to the student whose academic achievements are recognized.
- creating a Career Awareness Day. This supplements the curriculum that already places importance on higher education and vocations.
- providing speakers for school assemblies. The bank draws from its clientele whose various occupations and professions are explained with a personal touch.
- holding an Athletic Banquet.
- crowning the Homecoming Queen. this is done compliments of the C&I Bank President.
- providing a large movie screen for the auditorium.
- landscaping the grounds.
- initiating a School Clean Up Day promoting school empathy.

(Continued on last page)

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- holding a basketball game. C&I Bank played the Snowden Junior High faculty.

All Snowden Junior High School students, their parents and members of the community as well shall no doubt derive much satisfaction from such a magnificent program. The people of C&I Bank who have donated many hours of time, thought and planning should be commended, for in less than one year's time, C&I Bank and Snowden Junior High School have truly become a remarkable "family."

By Susan Helms

SOUTHWESTERN BASKETBALL
Men 1980-1981

Fri., Dec. 19	Maryville (Mo.)	H
Wed., Jan. 7	Rose-Hulman #	H
Sun., Jan. 11	Centre #	A
Mon., Jan. 12	Maryville (TN)	A
Sat., Jan. 17	Principia #	H
Wed., Jan. 21	C.B.C.	A
Sat., Jan. 24	Sewanee #	H
Wed., Jan. 28	Millsaps	A
Sat., Jan. 31	Rose-Hulman #	A
Tue., Feb. 3	C.B.C.	H
Fr., Feb. 6	Sewanee #	A
Sat., Feb. 7	Fisk	A
Fri., Feb. 13	Illinois	H
Tue., Feb. 17	Millsaps	H
Fri., Feb. 20	Centre #	H*
Fri., Feb. 27	Illinois Col. #	A
Sat., Feb. 28	Principia #	A

Home games: 7:30 p.m. (*-7:00)
— Conference Game

This schedule cut out of **The Evergreen News** admits one person into the Southwestern/Rose-Hulman game Jan. 7.

AN INVITATION TO CRIME?

Is your house an open invitation to crime? When did you last survey your home to determine "weak points that may help a burglar"? Have you and your family developed habits and "safe practices" concerning home security? What can you and your neighbors do to help each other with residential burglary prevention?

Professional advice and assistance are available to anyone just for the asking. Call Lt. Jim Myers at 528-2370 (weekdays 8 to 5 p.m.) and request a visit from the Memphis Police Department Crime Prevention Unit. Lt. Myers will bring the van to your block day or night so that you and your neighbors—the van seats 20—may learn how to improve home security in your area. The service is free and includes a short program, a question and answer session, and Lt. Myers gives everyone a Burglary Prevention Checklist and Inventory or Personal Possessions booklet. Additionally, Neighborhood Watch stickers can be obtained once you implement certain minimal home security measures.

So take a critical look at your home security situation. Then, take some personal positive action by becoming involved and assuming your responsibility for burglary prevention.

By Ann D. Moore

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