# The EVERGREENEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

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GOING STRONG

AFTER 50 YEARS

The peak of the depression seemed to many to be a foolhardy time to begin not only a church but a school as well. However, on March 25, 1930, ground was broken for the structure that would house Little Flower School on the first floor and the Church of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (also affectionately called Little Flower for its patroness) on the second.

The school has had a varied history, one intertwined very much with the church. The first pastor, Msgr. Whitfield staffed the school with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and today the state certified staff of eleven full-time and two part-time positions include four sisters.

The school was the first Catholic school in Memphis to integrate under the direction of Msgr. Leppert, long before court mandated busing. Also during Msgr. Leppert's pastorate, the school offered a bilingual program to meet the needs of Cuban exiles who fled after the Castro revolution.

The school has had lows as well as highs. Five years ago enrollment was very low, and the school might have closed without the financial genius of the third pastor, Father Scola.

However, now fifty years since its founding the school is operating at near capacity. The principal, Sister Marie Celine Osbourne feels very good about the programs the school, grades 1-8, offers.

"Perhaps one of the school's strongest points," she says "is the effort we make as a staff to have the children really feel good about themselves. We feel if we can build that sense of self-worth and importance, we cut down on discipline problems. And we have very few serious ones."

"The important reason for Little Flower's existance," she continues, "is the strong moral character we try to build. We do not evangelize (23% of our students are non Catholic), but we stress a system of moral values with God as the center of our school."

Other areas of strength include small classes and the individualized reading and math programs. Sister Celine explains, "We take students where they are and build on that. We are prepared for the sixth grader reading on a fourth grade level as well as the fourth grader reading on a seventh grade level."

"Our science program is very strong also," she continues. Last year Little Flower students won prizes in every category at the City Science Fair sponsored by the Board of Education for grades 1-6. Junior Highs who entered the fair sponsored by Christian Brothers High School also took honors.

Another plus offered by the school is the breakfast and lunch program managed by Geneva Harvey who has been with the school 27 years and assistant Maurene Brooks who has been there 20 years. A large group of volunteers committed to the school also keep the costs down; lunch is only 80 cents.

(Continued on last page)



## SOUTHWESTERN OFFERS CONTINUING EDUCATION

A variety of courses will be offered by Southwestern's Center for Continuing Education this fall ranging from Barney Sellers' photography workshop to an eight session study of ancient Greece's contribution to western civilization.

Steve Stern, whose short story "Isaac and the Undertaker's Daughter" was included in 1981 Prize Stories: The O. Henry Award, will conduct a creative writing workshop. Hershel Lipow, Legislative Assistant to the Memphis City Council, will moderate a series of panels discussing "Memphis: The Prospective City." Dr. Robert Patterson will lead a four session study of the controversial French writer, Michael Foucault. Dr. Granville Davis will serve as leader of two groups, one reexamining the links between the 1930s and today and another examining literature on the theme "Becoming Human." Professor Ray Hill will lead a "Great Books" class as well as one exploring contemporary theatre. The Center this fall will also offer the twenty-fifth class of The Institute for Executive Leadership.

For further information about any of these courses call 274-6606 or 274-1800 (Ext. 372).

#### **NEXT VECA MEETING**

Monday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Mark Hackett of the Mayor's Action Center and Claude Pearson of sanitation services.

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#### **VECA NEWS**

The VECA Executive Committee met July 20 and August 18 at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church and discussed the following topics:

Treasury. Martha Heinemann reported \$1267 in the VECA treasury.

**Evergreen News.** Several key staff members who have worked on the *E/News* for over a year have expressed the desire to retire. The executive committee was asked to keep an eye out for replacements. The *E/News* suggested that the two organizations go together in renting a post office box. Several alternatives were suggested, and the committee agreed on a neutral mailing address for both organizations.

Security Patrol. The committee had nothing but good things to report on the security patrol after six weeks of service. The *E/News* was asked to reiterate the services provided by Universal -- 24-hour patrol; trained, experienced guards; window and door decals identifying the house as being a subscriber; escort service from the subscriber's car into the house making sure it is secure; and vacation service consisting of inspecting the house three times a day and pick up of mail.

Pat Hanna volunteered to organize the door to door campaign to increase the number of subscribers.

Signs. Tom Kepple reported that Hein Park paid \$200 per six signs made and installed recently which stated that the area was patrolled 24 hours. The committee expressed a need to do that for the entire VECA area serviced by the patrol. Several committee members were concerned that VECA members who lived in the area not serviced would also be paying for the signs. Further investigation was suggested.

**Downzoning.** Dennis Heitzmann reported that a dispute over land use of a lot on Crump east of McLean had been resolved with the lot being divided into two for the purpose of single family dwellings.

Community Gathering. October 3 was the date set for the social event of the year to be held at Southwestern. Those attending will be allowed in the Southwestern football game for half the regular price.

Snowden Community School. Ann Moore reported that the Snowden Community School Partnership Committee was looking for a VECA representative to serve on the committee.

VECA Brochures. Tom Kepple suggested that the brochure be revised and possibly be a piece realtors could use in selling this area.

September General Membership Meeting. Dennis Heitzmann will ask Mark Hackett of the Mayor's Action Center and Claude Pearson, director of sanitation services to answer questions about how the center works and the new curbside garbage pick up. The meeting will be Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.

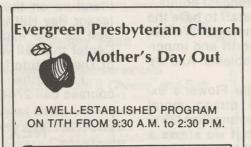
By Dorinda Smith

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

The second annual Run for Funds to benefit LeBonheur Children's Medical Center was a huge success. Several hundred runners took part in the five-mile run and the one-mile run in Overton Park May 30. With the running fee and pledge money received, Midtown TWIGS proudly announced a profit exceeding \$4100. The third annual Run for Funds will be next October.

Snowden Community School's fall classes will begin Tuesday evening, September 15. For more information, call Madelyn Conrad at 278-9559.





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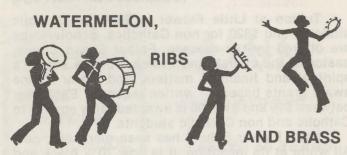
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When Madeleine Nunn throws a party, she makes it a bash. The picnic she invited her Hein Park neighbors to this summer featured ribs, chicken, watermelon, and a 100-member brass band.

Actually, it was as much Mary Sturdivant's ingenuity as Madeleine's luck that supplied the food and entertainment for the party. Mary, hearing the details of a contest with the prize of one performance by the Memphis Blues Brass Band, recognized opportunity and worked with some neighbors on June 18 to inundate WWEE radio station, the contest sponsor, with Hein Park entries. The drawing was held on June 20 at Crump Stadium during the annual "Blues in the Night" program, and Madeleine's name came out of the hat.

Madeleine blithely requested the September date of the annual neighborhood picnic for her performance, only to be told that the band of students from various colleges would be traveling in competition during August and dispersed in September for the new school year, so a performance past July could not be had. But WWEE so much liked the idea of having the band perform for a community picnic that the station offered to throw in the food as well as the music as an incentive for moving the annual affair up to July. Madeleine did not decline the offer.

Together with Mary Sturdivant and Judy Weber, the 1981-82 Garden Club President, Madeleine got busy and, aided by Verna Mae Burkle, Kathy Savord, Irene Warner, Nancy Prillaman, Patty Zerilla, and other eager picnickers, hastily organized the festive event. Tom Kepple, of Southwestern, arranged for the band to have access to the college grounds behind West Drive, and Judy Weber graciously consented to having her back yard turned into a dining area for 200 guests.

On July 19, a short month after Mary's brainstorm, the Memphis Blues Brass Band gave a hearty performance, which demonstrated to its responsive audience how it had been able to rank in the top 20 of the United States in 1980, its first year in competition. After the final strains of music had drifted away and the smart uniforms had filed across the Zerilla lawn to the waiting vehicles, the Hein Park gathering sifted through the trees and across the street to the waiting mounds of barbequed ribs, fried chicken, watermelon slices, and homemade cookies at the Webers'.

In the midst of licking greasy fingers, the diners, including Representative Pam Gaia, Councilman Bob James, and Dennis Heitzmann, new VECA President, enjoyed a brief program hosted by Fred Cook, culminating in the crowning of Miss Hein Park, Amanda Eckels, and Master Hein Park, Miles Wolfe. Walking back through the shady lanes to their homes, many people were to reflect on what a special afternoon they had just had, one filled with good food, good music, and good friends.

By Debbie Monroe

#### MARK OCTOBER 3 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

VECA is planning a community fun day on the Southwestern Campus. Stay tuned in the October issue of the E/News for more details.



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#### SOUTHWESTERN CALENDAR

#### SEPTEMBER

- 12 Varsity Football Southwestern vs. Millsaps, home, 1:30 p.m. Admission: adults \$3.00
- Informal discussion/question and answer session featuring Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Political Economy Award winner, Richard A. Musgrave, afternoon, Clough Hall Rm. 200. Free
- Faculty Recital Diane Clark, voice, Hardie Auditorium, 8 p.m., Free.

#### **OCTOBER**

3 Varsity Football — Southwestern vs. Washington University, home, 1:30 p.m., Admission: adults \$3.00

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

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#### IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD NUMBERS

VECA President Dennis Heitzmann, 276-6084 Information on Universal Security Patrol, 274-1794 Midtown Council, Tim Mashburn, 274-5761 Zoning Information, Joe Sohm, 278-6962 City Beautiful Commission, Ann Moore, 274-2163

#### LITTLE FLOWER

(Continued from First Page)

Tuition at Little Flower is \$670 for Catholic students and \$820 for non Catholics. Scholarships are offered by the diocese. Father Edwin Creary, pastor of the church and overseer of the school's spiritual and financial matters, and Sister Celine award grants based on written requests. Each year between \$15 and \$18,000 is awarded fairly equally to Catholic and non Catholic students.

Little Flower School has seen many changes. All white at its inception, it is now 70% black and 30% white. In 1951, the present church building was dedicated and the school now occupies all of the original building. The church and school joined with other churches in the community in founding the present Vollintine Evergreen Community Association.

Because of its willingness to accept and direct change, Little Flower School has made a contribution to this community. The 1980 anniversary theme, "Fifty years -- Foundation for the Future" makes clear that both school and church plan to continue that tradition.

By Tina Egge

#### **EVERGREEN NEWS STAFF**

EDITOR: Dorinda Smith, 276-2933 BUSINESS MANAGER/ADVERTISING: Sue Fagan, 272-3776 PRODUCTION MANAGER: Fran Griffith, 276-9162 DISTRIBUTION: Frank Moore, 526-1171

CONTRIBUTORS: Susan Helms, Tina Egge, Dorinda Smith, Frank Moore, Karen Lorenz, Debbie Monroe

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