

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Working With Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

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MLG&W EXPRESSES INTEREST IN RAILROAD PROPERTY

By Kathie Jarmon Kerr

The Seaboard System Railroad may be about to ring up its first sale of land along the abandoned Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way. A spokesperson for Memphis Light Gas & Water said the public utility has taken some initial steps toward purchasing 1.83 acres of the right-of-way with tentative plans calling to build an electrical substation on the parcel.

The property is near MLG&W's Mallory Pumping Station and is bounded by North Parkway on the north, the L&N strip on the south, Dunlap on the west and Ayres on the east. The area in question is 120 ft. wide, about the size of a city block. It is in the vicinity of Collins Chapel Clinic and Carnes Elementary School. An electrical substation would be a large building housing high voltage equipment and cut off from public access by fences, says Alice Duke Hollis, supervisor of corporate communications for MLG&W. Plans for the substation are not firm at this point, she added. And the MLG&W board has not been asked yet to approve the purchase of the property which is selling for \$24,000. But steps are being taken to present the proposal to the board sometime in the future, Hollis said.

Hollis said MLG&W for the past three years has been interested in six parcels of land along the right-of-way which abutts MLG&W property. All six parcels would sell for \$168,000. Internal changes within the utility and L&N Railroad have delayed any action until now. Hollis added right now there are no plans to begin the purchase process of any of the other parcels, but they will continue to be examined.

"We want to work with the neighborhood association on this every step of the way," says Hollis. "MLG&W properties are maintained well and parts not in use by us have been offered to some neighborhood groups for gardens and even soccer fields."

In addition to offering the land to MLG&W, Seaboard has contacted some neighborhood businesses to check their interest in purchasing parcels of the right-of-way which adjoins their businesses. Sears Cross-Town is one, says Michael Hutchins, assistant manager of real estate at Seaboard, a Louisville, Kentucky firm. No business has committed to buy any of the land, Hutchins added.

Homeowners whose property adjoins the railroad will be the next group to be contacted regarding buying the property. Those notices may be mailed next spring, Hutchins said.

In April, Seaboard offered the abandoned right-of-

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BROCHURE UPDATE

Wrestling with a theme for a new brochure, the executive committee of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association will wait awhile before offering a brochure prospectus to the general membership.

Executive committee members Sue Richardson and Denny Kepple prepared a proposed brochure prospectus which dealt with the goals and purposes of the brochure and copy make-up.

A 10-to-16 page brochure is planned, utilizing photographs. Estimated cost is \$5,000 for 10,000 copies which will be distributed throughout the VECA area and Memphis. Money is to be donated.

Much of the proposed prospectus was agreed to, but the committee is seeking more themes for the brochure. Themes suggested have described the Vollintine-Evergreen community as a "touchstone for Memphis," and "A Place for All People," as well as the old slogan of "VECA — Midtown at its best." Suggestions are welcomed.

Paramount to the success of the brochure is a solicitor for funds, says VECA president Rebecca Richardson. "The person needs to feel good about the neighborhood and not mind meeting with businesses, churches and others to solicit funds for the brochure," she said.

In other new business at the executive committee meeting, *The Evergreen News* submitted a proposed amendment for the VECA by-laws concerning the community newspaper. The newspaper staff asked VECA executive committee to recognize that the decisions concerning what articles are printed in *The Evergreen News*, the placement of such articles and other such management decisions are made by the management staff involved in the day-to-day operation of the newspaper.

Also, the staff asked the executive committee to recognize *The Evergreen News'* goals and purpose which were passed by the newspaper staff in 1982. Those read, "The purpose of *The Evergreen News* is to print as much news as space allows which will affect the greatest number of people living in the area represented by the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. This news is to be balanced with human interest stories about people and events in our neighborhood. The goal of *The Evergreen News* is to truthfully portray the way life is in our neighborhood now, was in the past and may be in the future."

The executive committee agreed to consider the proposed amendment and look at updating the by-laws as they refer to *The Evergreen News*, incorporating any policy changes which have occurred over the past 14 years.

In other action, the possible change in the number

(Continued on page 2)

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COMMUNITY GETS MEDIA ATTENTION

If you haven't seen a copy of the October issue of "Memphis" magazine, you're in for a surprise. A good part of the issue is dedicated to the Vollintine-Evergreen Community's efforts for successful race relations. The issue is called, "Breaking Down the Wall, Black and White Memphis, 1983." Vollintine-Evergreen was chosen as a community in the city which is trying to bring blacks and whites together through involvement in VECA, its schools and churches.

The article talks of the community's successes in this area, but also looks frankly at the work yet to be done. The controversy over the closing of West Drive, lack of white support for public schools in the area and lack of black participation in VECA are examined.

The article refers to *The Evergreen News* as an important communication vehicle for the community and interviews several VECA leaders. The article, written by L.G. Conley, states, "At the heart of Vollintine-Evergreen's integration success perhaps lies a kind of enlightend self-interest. And in the search for a formula for successful race relations, that may not be a bad beginning."

We hope you caught Nancy Hart's "Hometown People" segment on the Channel 5 news show recently. Susan Fagan, *The Evergreen News*' retiring advertising manager, was featured. Susan was shown talking to long-time advertisers at Dino's and Carl's Bakery. That staff position, by the way, is still open along with the position of business manager.

Also, check out the Oct. 10th issue of "Time" magazine. The issue, entitled, "Shaping Up, America's Schools Are Getting Better," has a pic-

ture of students filing into Idlewild Elementary School. Each year, parents camp out overnight in order to register their child in the school's optional programs.

LOGO DEADLINE NEARING

Everyone living within the VECA boundaries (Watkins, Cypress Creek, Springdale/Trezevant, former I-40 right-of-way) is invited to enter. The rules are simple.

Drawings are to be black ink on white (unlined) paper, any size. Deadline for entries is Thanksgiving. No work will be returned. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the winner from VECA.

The new VECA logo should be something that can easily be adapted to different print forms — T-shirts, name badges, bumperstickers, letterheads and checks. It should be simple in design, original in content and, most of all, a timeless symbol of our neighborhood. It should be the visual counterpart to our slogan "VECA - Midtown at its Best." Mail your entries to VECA LOGO, 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.



Old VECA Logo

1983	Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
Membership: \$5.00, family \$2.50, individual-\$10.00 lifetime	I would like to help VECA by _____
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MLG&W EXPRESSES INTEREST (Continued)

way to the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association for an appraised value of \$350,000 to \$500,000, ending any hopes VECA had of obtaining the property as a gift.

Over the past months, VECA has raised the question of ownership of the land and whether the railroad company did indeed have the right to sell the property. Presently, state legislators representing the VECA area are researching this title question.

Mark Lindstrom, vice president of VECA, said even Mayor Dick Hackett raised the question of ownership at a recent VECA meeting. "At that meeting, the mayor said the city would not be interested in buying any of the property because it would take an expensive title search. Yet now MLG&W is interested."

Hutchins said there was no doubt in the minds of those at Seaboard that the railroad company owns the property and has the right to dispose of it. Adds Hutchins, "We have maybe 19 or 20 abandoned lines in Indiana and Alabama alone. Each of those lines may have as many as 100 to 500 homeowners along them. It is impossible to give a lot of individual attention to just one."

Before any legislation can be proposed, or other action taken by VECA concerning the property, the VECA executive committee must have the results of a door-to-door survey. The survey, which was conducted early this year, asked residents along the abandoned property their wishes concerning the right-of-way. The tabulation of those results is still underway.

Meanwhile, maintenance of the property continues to be a concern of the neighborhood. Residents are reporting parts of the right-of-way are being used for dumping purposes.



BINGO

Every Monday 7:30 P.M.

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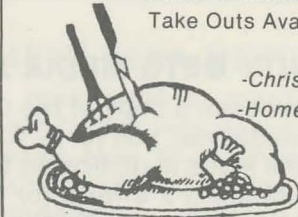
Sat., Nov. 12 - 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 13 - 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Adult \$4.00 Child \$2.00

Senior Citizens \$3.00

Take Outs Available



-Christmas Gift Shop

-Homemade Desserts

-Fun & Prizes

-Raffle

-Games

SOUTHWESTERN'S EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov. Theatre, Production of "Sweeney Todd", McCoy

3-6 Theatre, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays plus 3 p.m.

10-13 Sunday matinees, on November 13 and 20. \$7

17-29 adults

Nov 6 Art exhibit, featuring works by Mary Sims,

Dec 9 Clough-Hanson Gallery, weekdays, 9 a.m. - 5

p.m., Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. Opening Reception

Nov. 6, 5-8 p.m. Free

Nov. Images Foreign Film Series, "Time Stands Still",

10-13 in Hungarian with English subtitles, directed by

Peter Gother, 8 p.m., Frazier Jelke - Room B.

\$2.50, general public.

EVERGREEN NEWS STAFF

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DISTRIBUTION: Fran Griffith, 276-9162

ADDRESS: 1663 Tutwiler, 38107

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THANKFUL HAPPENINGS

The Mid-Town churches of Memphis, including those in the Vollintine-Evergreen area, will be meeting in a joint Thanksgiving Day service Nov. 24 at Springdale United Methodist Church, 751 North Trezevant. Worship service is at 10 a.m. with coffee and donuts served at 9:30 a.m. The sermon will be preached by Dr. Henry Strock, senior pastor of Idlewild Presbyterian Church. Offering that day will go to the Churches and Social Services Fund, a fund which provides emergency financial assistance when no other provision is available. Last year, more than \$500 was raised.

Does your school or church have a special Thanksgiving or Christmas affair? Remember, *The Evergreen News'* deadline is one month in advance of each published issue. Next year, plan ahead and let us publicize your event.

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