

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Working With Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

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NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS UNDERGO CHANGES

Neighborhood schools in the Vollentine-Evergreen Community will undergo significant changes, it was decided in March by the Memphis Board of Education.

Snowden Elementary and Junior High School and Vollentine Elementary School will be "depaiored." That is to say, they will return to their previous neighborhood school status. Beginning in the 1985-86 school year, Snowden will once again return to a kindergarten through ninth grade school and Vollentine will be kindergarten through sixth grade. Both schools will have optional programs, as well as the regular school curriculum.

At press time of *The Evergreen News*, the question of boundary changes involving these two schools was still unresolved by the school board.

While enthusiastic about having the schools returned to a neighborhood school concept, VECA asked school officials at a meeting last month to drop a proposed change of boundary between Snowden School and Cypress Junior High School.

The change, proposed by officials to relieve crowding and to provide more space for Snowden's optional program, would shift 133 black students and 11 whites to Cypress, which is currently all black.

Rebecca Smith, VECA president, said the association members and the black parents at Snowden have worked hard to make sure children are able to attend viable biracial public schools. It was the feeling of the VECA executive committee that it would be unfair to pull neighborhood children from Snowden and shift them to Cypress just to make room for children from all over the city to attend the optional programs.

Many VECA members and parents from Snowden and Vollentine attended the March meeting of the school board to drive home this point.

VECA, Ms. Smith said, was the only community organization allowed to intervene as a friend of the court in the city's federal court desegregation case in the early 1970s.

The boundary shift was proposed by the board staff and was not requested by defense fund attorneys.

Cypress Junior High has 683 black students while the Snowden junior high grades have 623 blacks and 177 whites. Under the proposed change, Cypress is projected to have 816 black and 11 white students, with Snowden having 490 blacks and 166 whites.

Proposed for transfer to Cypress is the portion of the Snowden zone east of McLean and north of Jackson. Students in the area would have an opportunity to seek transfers to Snowden's academic optional program.

Roy Logan, principal at Vollentine, said the designation of Vollentine as an optional program and a K-6 grade school would have little effect on attracting more white students to Vollentine. "That won't happen, not with Snowden and Idlewild being so close. But that's not the purpose of this, anyway. The main purpose is so Vollentine won't continue to lose its better students to an optional program somewhere else," he said. Vollentine is looking into several optional program possibilities, one being a fundamental optional program, and another, an individually guided education program.

CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES GIVEN THUMBS DOWN BY VECA

(Continued from March Issue)

GENERAL RESPONSE TO CONSTRUCTION ALTERNATIVES

We do not feel that the need for any construction has been satisfactorily documented, and we do not feel that the potential damages to our neighborhood have been sufficiently researched and considered.

We favor improvements to the Mid-City Interchange to make the natural flow of I-40 traffic follow the I-240 loop.

Based on the current alternatives and information available, we favor the no-modification alternatives for both the west and east ends of the corridor. Proposed modifications will seriously adversely impact several historic districts and neighborhoods, including our own.

THE CLEVELAND CONNECTOR

We strongly favor the no-modification alternative. No connection to Cleveland is needed, and any connection would bring serious problems to our neighborhood.

Three years ago VECA did not raise strong opposition to a connector to Cleveland, because it was believed the Cleveland business district wanted and needed the connector, and because it was the least objectionable of the numerous alternatives requiring construction. It was assumed then that the "no-build" alternative was not achievable. We now have information from businessmen along Cleveland that the connector is no longer needed nor desired, and we further believe that the "no-build" alternative is more viable now than before.

The Cleveland business district is prospering more now than it has in 20 years, with every building rented, with the exception of burned-out Big Star Grocery Store. *While Cleveland is now heavily traveled, there is no particular traffic problem that would require a "solution". Any connector into Cleveland would only exaggerate any current traffic problems*, by encouraging interstate and commuter traffic to take the "short-cut" down Overton Park Avenue, Galloway Avenue, and North Parkway through our neighborhood, especially if an East Parkway connector is built.

The Cleveland business district is presently sufficiently accessible from Poplar and North Parkway. The interstate system is presently sufficiently accessible from Union, Madison, and Jackson.

THE EAST PARKWAY CONNECTOR

We favor the no-modification alternative.

We strongly oppose any elevated or interstate type of Plough Boulevard-type roadway into East Parkway. Such a design will not only psychologically encourage traffic to "take the interstate" to East Parkway, and then jog over to North Parkway, but also physically funnel them to that route.

Such a roadway would also severely damage and disrupt the Binghampton neighborhood and the businesses on Broad Avenue, limiting access between those areas and practically isolating Broad Avenue.

Once the present construction at the I-40/I-240 interchange in east Memphis has been completed, the amount of westbound traffic using the deleted portion of I-40 will probably decrease (with no modification at either end of the Midtown Transportation Corridor), thereby decreasing any need for an East Parkway connector.

(Continued on page 6)

Q's AND A's

To help you better understand *The Evergreen News*, here are answers to the most frequently asked questions.

What is the relationship between *The Evergreen News* and the Volentine-Evergreen Community Association? Thirteen years ago, *The Evergreen News* was begun by the founders of VECA to stop white flight from the community and to promote racial harmony. A professor at Southwestern was the first editor. Through the years, the newspaper has been produced and delivered by people who are VECA members, some who are not. Regardless, the staffs of both organizations have maintained a good, working relationship.

In 1982, the current staff adopted these goals and purposes for *The Evergreen News*. "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 VECA. This news is to be balanced with human interest stories about the 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."

Who puts out *The Evergreen News*? The newspaper is produced monthly by an all-volunteer staff. Some of us are professional writers, others are nurses, homemakers, teachers and people with no previous newspaper experience, but with an eye for design and quality. The newspaper is dependent on a network of 150 volunteer carriers who distribute the paper door-to-door to 5,500 homes in the VECA area. That area is bordered by the old I-40 right-of-way on the south, Cypress Creek on the north, Springdale/Trezevant on the east and Watkins on the west. The December/January and the June/July issues are combined.

Who pays for *The Evergreen News*? The newspaper is not subsidized by any group or organization and is distributed free. Ads alone pay for printing expenses, which currently run \$266 for a four-page monthly edition. A six-page issue is \$150 more. Most of our advertisers are neighborhood businesses. Ads are worth watching, for some contain special discounts on services or products to community residents.

How much are ads? Because printing costs are low, our ads can be priced reasonably for our neighborhood businesses. As of April, 1984, small ads are \$10 and large ads are \$20. There is an initial fee of \$3 for new ads. Personal ads of 20 words or less are \$3.

What can I do to help *The Evergreen News*? We love it when people ask this question. Volunteers are always needed to write, type, sell ads, keep books, distribute the paper and inform us of neighborhood events.

If none of these are up your alley, we welcome financial

contributions. While ads pay the printing costs of the paper, there are usually only a few dollars left for mailing or supply expenses. A check for any amount would be appreciated. Make it payable to *The Evergreen News* and mail it to *The Evergreen News*, 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

When are staff meetings of *The Evergreen News*? Meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m., the first Thursday night of each month, at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1663 Tutwiler. Sometimes they are held at a local restaurant, tavern or a member's home. Please call any staff member for more information.

BUSINESSES SHOULDER EXPENSES

In addition to our advertisers, several businesses and individuals support *The Evergreen News* by donating money and services.

The terrific printing job that *The Evergreen News* enjoys each month is due to the talents of the folks at Starr Printing Co., 1836 Chelsea. Starr is owned by Ronnie Martin and Lloyd Boatright. They bought Starr in February 1980 and began with only four employees. Now they have 43 employees and Starr operates round-the-clock shifts. Recently, they added Starr Graphics, a complete art department with five full-time artists. Most of Starr's clients are large commercial customers. But they always have had time for *The Evergreen News*, generously donating much of their time and charging us only a fraction of what the printing costs really should be. To all our friends at Starr, we say thanks.

Other businesses which contribute to *The Evergreen News* include Fox Photo, 15 N. McLean and Ward Archer & Associates, 2996 Directors Row. Fox Photo donates one roll of black and white film per month, when needed, to the newspaper. This has allowed us to make the paper more eye-catching and appealing through photographs. Ward Archer & Associates, an advertising and public relations firm, has recently begun donating stamps and the use of its photocopying machine for about a dozen meeting notices per month.

Since there is no extra money in the budget for mailing purposes or supplies, all these donations help greatly. There is one individual and businessman who has helped us for many years now in this area. Memphis attorney Frank Moore has long contributed his time and resources in hand delivering and mailing *The Evergreen News* to city officials, the library and the media. A special thanks is extended to Frank.

The Evergreen News still needs donations of mailing and photocopying services. If your business would like to help, please contact the editor.



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TRASH I HAVE KNOWN

By Grace Spice Wallace

(Editor's Note: We convinced Grace Wallace, author of the well-read article on the history of Lick Creek, to dig out a letter she wrote seven years ago to a representative of the City Beautiful Commission in which she reflects on one of her hobbies — litter picking. Grace is still a trash junky, picking up everything in sight near her VECA home. Her musings are still current, but she adds, now there are monetary rewards in some trash treasures like glass bottles and aluminum cans. When Grace isn't picking up trash, she's productions manager for The Evergreen News, a docent at the Lichterman Nature Center and a volunteer at the Lowenstein House.)

I have received a letter from the City Beautiful Commission and I appreciate it. It has brought me to the point of recording some of the musings I entertain as I pick up trash.

I do lay down limits but they are labile. I have learned that there is little value in saying, "This is the last one, after this bottle I will stop and turn around." Inevitably as I put that one in my trashbag, I see another item just a little farther on and I succumb.

The size of the bag I start out with is not really a limitation. If the pickings are good and overflow my bag, I can usually count on finding additional bags

en route. Summer is the best season for that kind of luck. I prize the sturdy plastic bags that originally held ice, cubed or crushed. They are plentiful and can be used repeatedly.

I will not be bound by any schedules or systems. The hedge along the northern side of Jackson where the westbound bus stops might get more of my attention if I scheduled it for every third Sunday. I might be more efficient if I worked out a systematic routing along each curb and did all curbs before starting on the center strip on University, but I will not be bound by schedules and systematic approaches. Litter picking is my recreation, it must be done on impulse with freedom to roam from curb to crape myrtle to hedge and back again as erratically as the litter pattern dictates.

The pattern has some recurring features. Auto parts, small ones, nuts and bolts and bulbs and chromium tend to concentrate close to the curbs near the railroad crossing, shaken loose there perchance. Larger parts, wheel covers, mufflers, wiper blades seem to come loose in random fashion and may settle into temporary inertia anywhere. Cans, bottles, take-out food and beverage containers, cigarette packages, gum wrappers, shopping lists, traffic tickets, love letters, mechanic wipes, all helped by human hands, fall to earth and concrete in no predictable pattern over the length of my recreation area.

I do not pick up cigarette filters or rings from flip-top cans. I wear gloves while I make my rounds, or squares, or diagonals, as the spirit moves me, and the smallness of the filters and rings makes them tricky to pick up with gloved fingers. That, coupled with their overpowering numbers, means they are beyond my limits. I know that the possibility of them piling high enough to stop traffic is avoided only by the fact that the gulley washers that raise the water level in University Street to the point where it stops traffic, recurrently, the gulley washers move the filters and the rings into the Mississippi River.

*Dee Ann
issue*


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Spectator response to my recreational activity ranges all the way from total unawareness to conferring of the City Beautiful Commission Award. Minimal awareness is signalled by the foot easing up on the accelerator for about five seconds as the car passes or the head being turned as the pedestrian or cyclist passes. Approval is frequent, in word and gesture. The words are usually "More people should do what you're doing, keep it up!" Sometimes someone slows down or stops to say: "I do that on my street. Too bad more people don't do it." Some joggers grunt approval, others can't spare the air. I am supported by the fact that all spectator response is approving. Even those who may appear unaware of my activity as they drive on University Street encourage me by their actions. They continue to provide the litter that makes my recreation possible.

Do I keep any records? Have I been tempted to develop a data base to be worked over at my leisure after picking up litter is no longer physically possible? Perish the thought! No, I do not keep any records of amounts, kinds or characteristics of litter. Yes, I have been tempted to speculate on possible relationships between litter patterns and cultural and sociological trends. But I have withstood the temptation successfully. Setting up scales, sorting bins, record keeping categories, all these are, like systems and schedules, outside the limits of my activities.

Are there rewards in addition to The Award? Yes there are and let me name a few. But first let me disclaim anything like an inner glow resulting from a duty performed. I enjoy litter picking too much to think of it as a duty. Rewards are visual; I love a litter-

free view, from my house, across University to the Southwestern Campus. They are auditory. I love to not hear cars running over flattened cans with monotonous regularity. They are tangible; a copy of the second volume of British Poetry and Prose (Wordsworth to Stephen Spender). The cover is missing, but the underlining and marginal notes of the previous reader, or maybe readers, are there and they stir the mind; two unopened cans of beer; a degree of limberness derived from bending and unbending, that hopefully will postpone the day when I cannot any longer function as a litter picker.

The City Beautiful Commission letter offered me assistance with any problems I may have. I have one. I have asked myself if my recreational activity is doing anyone any harm. When I pick up litter for a block or two on each side of University, it has occurred to me that I may be encouraging apathy and sloth in the neighbors. I am not going to ask the Commission for help in this dilemma, however. I know I am going to continue doing what I'm doing and neighbors will just have to find some other activity to ward off apathy and sloth.

The City Beautiful Commission letter also mentioned an Award of Merit Decal. Be assured that I will display it proudly when I receive it. Displaying it will create a challenge for me. Public notice of my activity means that pride will require me to maintain and possibly increase or extend it.

I am not promising to increase and extend. I am happy with my hobby as it is, and as it is, it fills one garbage can each week with litter. My thanks go to the Sanitation Department for emptying that extra can. Without the cooperation of the workers of that department, I could not have my fun.

Please express my pleasure to your fellow members on the City Beautiful Commission. "America's First" is in good hands.

(Editor's Note: Grace never did receive that award decal. We think she should, don't you?)

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NEW BUSINESS

by Lois Fingerett

One of Mid-Town's newest businesses has opened within the VECA area. Townsend's Meat Market, located at the corner of Tutwiler and McLean, celebrated its opening day on March 5th. Business hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Owned and operated by Henry and Mary Ann Townsend, the old-fashioned meat market features fresh cut, over-the-counter meats as well as packaged meats, beverages and a variety of other food items. Choice beef and fresh poultry are Townsend's specialties.

Henry Townsend is a 32-year employee of the Fred Montesi Company where he served as manager of the meat department as well as butcher and manager of other departments. He and Mary Ann are long time mid-town residents. They have nine children, three of whom are still at home.



The Townsends

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CONCLUSION

While we favor the no-modification alternatives at both the east and west ends of the Midtown Transportation Corridor, we strongly desire and expect to continue to be consulted and stay involved on an ongoing basis throughout the planning process. If additional input is expected or if this is our last opportunity to provide input and ideas, we request and expect to be notified immediately, so that we may respond. Thank you for your consideration of our views on these matters.

SECOND ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The second annual *Picture Your Neighborhood* photography contest sponsored by **The Evergreen News** is underway. This year, color photographs will be accepted, as well as black and white.

Contest rules are simple. Anyone living anywhere with any type of background can enter. The pictures must be taken within the area we call VECA which is bordered by the former I-40 right-of-way on the south, Cypress Creek on the north, Trezevant/Springdale on the east and Watkins on the west. The Overton Park area is included.

Most importantly, we want the photographs to represent a sense of neighborhood. Last year's first place winner's photograph depicted black and white children playing together on a neighborhood playground. Second place's photograph pictured long-time VECA residents taking pride in a magnificent blooming dogwood tree. The third place's photo's subject was a graduation ceremony at Southwestern College.

Deadline for the pictures is June 30, 1983. Winners will be published over a period of time in **The Evergreen News**, beginning in August. Because of the expense involved in reproducing color photographs, the winning photographs in this category will be reproduced in black and white. Prizes will be given. Watch for future articles in **The Evergreen News** for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VECA will be sponsoring a community health project in May with the cooperation of Memphis State University. This project is aimed at the identification of community members who have hypertension or high blood pressure. Even though high blood pressure has no obvious symptoms, it contributes to the estimated 60,000 deaths and 15 million strokes and heart attacks each year. If high blood pressure is detected early, most people can manage their blood pressure levels with appropriate treatments.

To bring this project to VECA, MSU and VECA need the help of residents who will be willing to take the blood pressure measurements of their neighbors. This procedure is easy to learn and all volunteers will be taught to take blood pressure readings by certified medical personnel from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences.

"This is an opportunity for us to reach beyond the ordinary activities of the neighborhood organization and to demonstrate that communities can help to take care of themselves," said Andrew Meyers, Ph.D., professor of clinical psychology at MSU, and supervisor of the blood pressure project.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please call Vince Culotta at 454-0190 after 6 p.m. Vince is a graduate student working with Dr. Meyers.

The project has been done in other Memphis communities with good success, says Culotta. "VECA was chosen because we hadn't worked with a free-standing community organization, just apartment buildings. The point of the project is to prove that central site treatment is not nearly as good as door-to-door checks," said Culotta.



The wild West comes alive this month at Brooks. Pictured is Frederic Remington's "Turn Him Loose, Bill."

MASTERPIECES OF THE AMERICAN WEST ON DISPLAY AT BROOKS

The excitement of the wild West comes to Memphis before traveling to New Orleans for the World's Fair. The Anschutz Collection provides a visual history of the American West as it traces the development of American art through its artists. Memphis' Brooks Museum of Art will host the exhibition through April 29. Admission to the Museum and exhibition is free.

The famous Anschutz Collection was established to provide a visual history of the growth of the American West. More than 100 paintings comprise the exhibition, including works by Frederic Remington, George Catlin, John Sloan, Georgia O'Keefe, and N.C. Wyeth. The paintings provide accurate insights regarding the exploration, settlement, and development of the American West from 1832 to 1979. The styles and the media differ, but the message remains the same: the West is a beautiful, vigorous, still untamed land whose spirit of adventure speaks to us all.

The Museum Shop will offer a commemorative poster, exhibition catalogue, note cards, and reproductions. Film buffs should be sure to check the Museum's weekly film series which will feature classic westerns throughout the exhibition dates.

The exhibition and special programming are made possible in Memphis by a grant from Refco, Inc. and Sparks Commodities, Inc. This is a great exhibit for children and adults.

FILMS AT SOUTHWESTERN

The next artist on the 1984 Southern Circuit tour at Southwestern is Tony Buba on May 3. He will present a series of short documentaries that are personal vignettes starring people he grew up with in Braddock, PA. The presentation will be at 7:30 p.m., May 3 in Lecture Room B of the Frazier Jelke Science Center.

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