

THE EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES

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VECA

The Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. It is written, published and distributed by residents of the VECA neighborhood. The Evergreen News contains information about VECA, stories about neighborhood residents and businesses, information about City of Memphis government policies which affect the neighborhood, and both problems and successes in the neighborhood.

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and dues paying members.

The VECA neighborhood is a mid-town community made up of older though elegant homes. It is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezvant on the East, and Overton Park and the formerly proposed expressway route on the South. VECA is a diverse neighborhood. It is one of the few integrated neighborhoods in Memphis. It has elderly residents, younger families, and single residents. It has very attractive institutions such as Snowden and Vollintine optional schools, churches including Protestant, Jewish and Catholic; one of the nation's most prestigious colleges in Rhodes College (Rhodes was named by Time Magazine as one of its "nifty nine" colleges); and several small neighborhood shopping areas which include a bakery, delicatessen, butcher shop, car care center and restaurant.

MARGARET DICHTEL, VECA FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, DIES

VECA mourns the loss of President Margaret Dichtel.

Margaret was one of the founders of VECA and worked on a number of issues, including problems related to integration, unscrupulous realtors,

preservation of trees on the Jackson median, and neighborhood schools. She is director of Family Services of Memphis and is known for her dedication to Little Flower Catholic Church. Margaret is an inspiration to all of us in VECA.

Margaret was Executive Director of Family Service of Memphis; and a Board Member of Family Service America, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, of the Day Treatment Center, and of Associated Catholic Charities, Diocese of Memphis.

She was also the first elected President of the Memphis Catholic Human Relations Council, the first chairman of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association, and a delegate to State and National meeting, White House Conference on Families.

GRACE WALLACE VECA PRESIDENT

VECA Vice-president Grace Wallace succeeds as President. Grace has been involved in VECA for many years, especially as a distributor for the Evergreen News and as a member of the Executive Committee. We welcome Grace as the new President and look forward to working with her.

VECA SPEAKER RICHARD E. WALLACE

Richard E. Wallace spoke at the March 16 meeting of VECA. This Midtown realtor was a stemwinder speaker as he reviewed the VECA area from a realtor's perspective.

He urged the neighborhood to be vigilant. He described danger signs: cars on the grass are the beginning point, followed by high weeds, unpainted houses. This leads to a contagious deterioration.

He called VECA houses the "best houses in town." He described the houses in VECA

as outstanding, having "character and quality". He cited the need to maintain these houses by saying "I like to see old houses smile".

He said that property values in the area were continuing to go up. He mentioned the need to maintain the property values. He urged the use of city agencies, which he said, are responsive when they are called, to deal with problems.

Wallace also described several residential areas that are problems, which will be addressed by VECA. In addition, he described problems with the commercial gateways to the neighborhood. Disposition of the Baron Hirsch property was described as a potential problem and he indicated the need to find a compatible buyer for the property.

Wallace showed his affection for the VECA area by making a contribution of VECA t-shirts that were to be donated to the Boys Club.

VECA MEETINGS

The next VECA meeting is scheduled for May 18 at 1663 Tutwiler at 7:30. Rhodes College will make a presentation on their plans for the College. As you may have noticed, there is a considerable amount of construction going on at the College. There has also been some disagreement between the College and adjacent neighbors which will be discussed at the meeting.

CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

The Executive Committee of VECA is proposing changes in the VECA By-Laws that will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting on May 18. The changes include the following:

1. The southern boundary of the neighborhood will change to the middle of North Parkway. The area between North Parkway and the expressway right of way was an area shared by VECA and another neighborhood group, the Evergreen Historical District. It appeared to the Executive Committee that the residents of this area had a greater identification with the Historical District. The

Executive Committee also felt that it was important to contract the size of VECA to make our work more manageable.

2. Up to this time the outside borders of VECA included both sides of a street. The Executive Committee now recommends that only the inside border of a street be included in the VECA area. (*failed*)

3. VECA dues for the coming year will be voted on at the first meeting of the year. Dues will be based on a calendar year from January to December.

4. All residents who are now lifetime members will continue to be lifetime members. There will be no new lifetime members accepted and it will no longer be a new membership category.

5. The duties of the President of VECA are to be simplified.

These proposals are subject to discussion before being voted on at the next meeting.

CARS ON FRONT LAWNS

VECA is involved in neighborhood preservation. We want this to be an attractive and desirable area of the city in which ALL residents will feel comfortable and proud. We also know that it is sometime necessary to point out problem areas to our fellow neighbors. A little concern on all of our parts can make this a more attractive neighborhood.

One of the practices which reflects badly upon the neighborhood is the parking of cars on the front lawn. Although this is a matter of taste, it does have practical consequences. Outsiders wanting to move into our neighborhood, rightly or wrongly, sometimes conclude that neighborhoods with parked cars on the lawn are less desirable. Potential homebuyers, friends and visitors look upon this as a careless practice. And the result is that the neighborhood is seen as less desirable. If you are a homeowner, this will affect your property values. If you are a renter, it will affect how people view your chosen neighborhood.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

We have noticed some cars parked on front lawns. We plead with those residents to recognize the problem that this creates. Please remove those cars to either the driveway or onto the street.

MARTHA HEINEMANN NAMED TREASURER

Martha Heinemann was named as the VECA Treasurer. Martha has served unswervingly as VECA Treasurer for the last 6 years. She served in good times when the Treasury was full and the organization was active. She also served in times when the organization was inactive. She tended to the financial matters of the organization with competence and was a source of continuity, when there was no other.

She lives on Belvedere where she works with her neighbors in preservation efforts. Her neighbors often come to her with assistance in neighborhood problems.

A job well done Martha; you are an inspiration to all of us.

PARKWAY HOUSE

The Commercial Appeal of March 15 ran a story titled "Condos Lure Rhodes Staff". The article said that Rhodes College had purchased 17 of the 133 units at 1960 N. Parkway and that it was renting them to faculty members. The story featured Sue Legge who is an accounting professor at the school. She is quoted as liking the site because of the closeness to the school, since she can walk to work, and the feeling of safety.

Rhodes purchased most of the units within the last year. Rhodes paid below market rates for the condos and required the seller to make a tax deductible gift, approximately the size of a realtor's fee. An official of the school is quoted as saying that the college has no plans for purchasing the whole tower. Units rent for \$350 to \$650.

DEAR MISC. MATTERS

This month the Evergreen News will start a column on decorating and miscellaneous

matters. If you have a question, send it to DEAR MISC. MATTERS in care of VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis 38107

A reader recently sent a question to MISC. MATTERS: "Dear Misc. Matters: I don't know what color to paint the outside of my house. Signed: A faithful VECA Resident"

Dear Faithful Resident:

Year after year, an impeccably dressed neighbor slapped another coat of chalk white paint on the tired clapboards between the motley pink of her roof and motley brown brick house and wondered why the effect was, well, motley.

Whether you are planning a wardrobe, decorating your living room or the exterior of your house, there are some basic color rules to guide you. That's the good news. The bad news is those rules seem to change with time and fashion. Colors we thought charming ten years ago are glaring compared to today's subdued country look.

In this neighborhood, we usually have three colors to consider when we decorate outside: the roof, the brick, and siding and trim.

What color should you choose? Take a close look at the unchangeable brick. You will probably see more than one color. Consider one of these colors for the roof and a tint of it for the siding. A tint is a color lightened by white. Just for reference, look at some interior paint sample cards. They usually start with a base color and go up the card with progressively lighter tints. Look for a base color like your brick and you will have found the tints you can use for roof and trim. Just keep adding white.

This one-color scheme is not the most exciting scheme, but you won't receive any unpleasant surprises, either. You can accent architectural elements with lighter or darker variations of the chosen tint.

Now look at that brick again. Is the red closer to yellow or blue? Is that green yellow-green or blue-green? Is that

brown rosy or golden? This is why the cool pink-beige that flatters your neighbors' rosy brick house won't work on your orange brick; just as the warm peach-beige that flatters your house will look less than peachy on your neighbors'.

HOUSING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The VECA Housing Committee has been hard at work. The committee has received several requests for action from VECA residents and we are addressing those requests.

However, it is the proactive efforts of the committee that are important. The committee wants to address the residences in the neighborhood which do not quite seem to be up to the standards of the rest of the neighbors.

The committee has designed a survey form which can then be used to identify problem houses. The form will gather information on the type of infractions such as illegal business activities, disabled cars, overgrown vegetation and cars on the front lawn. Characteristics of offending houses such as roof problems, paint problems, wood deterioration and broken windows are also on the form.

A letter will be sent from VECA to the homeowner. It will describe the problem and ask for the homeowner's help in correcting the problems. It is hoped that the vast majority of these residents will comply voluntarily and no further action will be required.

However, for those residents who do not respond in a positive fashion or ignore the letter, the Housing Committee will turn those over to the VECA Visitation committee. The Visitation Committee will be a group of VECA residents who will visit the household and will discuss the aims of VECA and the need to respond to these problems.

The Housing Committee wants and needs residents to volunteer for the Visitation committee. If you would like to help, send a note to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

As a conclusion, the Housing Committee has already found some problems with some units. The problems are not extensive or serious and merely seem to reflect carelessness by the owner rather than any pattern of problems.

SNOWDEN SCHOOL

Two events highlight healthy contrasts at Snowden school. In February, the Honor Society inducted new members at an assembly of the entire junior high. The speaker was D'Army Baily, community activist, local attorney, former candidate for Mayor of Memphis, and the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lorraine Motel Foundation. Mr. Baily gave an inspiring speech in which he commended those students who were being inducted into the Honor Society. He challenged others to also achieve and spoke of the importance of education in their lives and to the future of the city.

Memphis State Coach Larry Finch spoke at an assembly honoring the Snowden Boys basketball team. The team not only won the city championship, but it also had a perfect record this year. Several of the team members have been mentioned in the Commercial Appeal as exceptional high school basketball prospects. Coach Finch extolled the virtues of education and relate athletics to the Say No anti-drug campaign.

HELP NEEDED

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
Phone _____

Business Committee Visitation Committee
Executive Committee • Housing Committee

Deliver the Evergreen News

VECA dues of \$5.00 enclosed

Please check the appropriate items and mail to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.
