

# THE EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES

VECA Address: 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis 38107  
Volume XIII, Number 4, October, 1987

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The VECA neighborhood is a mid-town community made up of older though often elegant homes. It is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East, and North Parkway on the South. VECA is a diverse neighborhood, one of the few successfully integrated areas in Memphis. It has elderly residents, younger families, and single residents. VECA also contains 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 dry cleaners, furniture refinishing shop, grocery/deli, butcher shop, car care center and restaurant.

## VECA MEETING NOVEMBER 9

Steve Shular of the Mayor's Action Center will speak to VECA on the topic: "Code Enforcement: Using the City to Improve the Neighborhood".

Meeting time: Monday, November 9 at 7:30 at 1663 Tutwiler.

Steve Shular has been working closely with the Housing Committee in dealing with problems in the neighborhood. These involve illegal businesses, houses that are eyesores, and a problem with the transit authority.

The committee has found him to be among the most responsive of officials and VECA commends and thanks him for his efforts.

Shular will discuss practices that are a violation of the city code. He will also be interested in complaints from VECA residents. If there is something in your area that is unacceptable, please come to the meeting and

communicate it to the man who can respond.

## VECA DUES

YOU CAN HELP. Please send your yearly dues of \$5.00 to VECA to aid us in our work. It is crucial to have your financial help. A coupon is at the end of the newspaper.

## VECA AND CITY ELECTIONS

VECA has 5 precincts or polling places that are predominantly in the area: Cypress in the northeast; Fire Station in the northwest (about 60 % in the neighborhood), Peace Lutheran in the center; Good Shepard in South central and Snowden in the South.

Mayor Richard Hackett was elected to office for another term. He received 59 % of the vote in the city. In the Veca area, the highest Hackett totals were in Snowden with 82 % and Good Shepard with 70 %. Peace (41 %), Cypress (28 %) and Fire Station (19 %) gave Hackett lower percentages. Both Gibbons and Johnican did better in these latter three areas. Johnican was around 50 % in both Fire Station and Cypress.

The Horse Racing Referendum did well in the neighborhood. The low was 64 % in both Snowden and Peace. The other areas were all above 70 %.

The turnout was the highest in Peace, Snowden and Good Shepard with over 49 % and lowest in fire Station (40 %) and Cypress (45 %). The city turnout was 46 %.

## SAMMONS ELECTED

Jack Sammons was elected to the City Council from District 5. He received 65 % of the vote in the district. He received over 70 % in Snowden and Good Shepard and 64 percent in Peace.

Sammons spoke at the VECA candidate forum and expressed interest in working with VECA and other neighborhood groups. He even indicated an interest in attending our meetings. He supports education, housing code enforcement and improvement of business districts.

## PEETE AND JONES IN RUNOFF

District 7 has a runoff between Ricky Peete and Velma Lois Jones. Peete received almost 50 % of the vote in the district, while Jones received 46 %. This hotly contested election showed differences in VECA. Peete captured 64 % of the vote in Fire Station, while Jones captured 59 % of the vote in Cypress. The Evergreen News will report the runoff result in the next issue.

### THE VECA ADVISOR PAINTING YOUR HOME

The Veca Advisor provides hints to homeowners on a variety of issues.

November is the last month of the year to paint the outside of your house. There are many good reasons to paint your house as soon as there is a sign of peeling paint.

Unpainted houses are an invitation to rapid deterioration. The southern climate with its heat and high humidity rapidly destroys wood. Once wood has rotted, it can be expensive and time consuming to have carpentry performed. Rotted wood also allows insects and small animals to enter the house through the holes which have been created.

Unpainted houses with peeling paint are inconsistent with the beauty of the VECA area. Ours is a neighborhood of beautiful older homes well cared for by residents who take pride in their property. It is only a few residents who do not exhibit that same care.

Unpainted houses are also against the law. The City Code has legislated against unpainted houses since it can lead to severe deterioration.

What are some of the guidelines to be used in painting? The most important job is the preparation. Preparation takes more time than painting, but it will make the paint job last many years longer. There are some basic rules on preparation.

1. Scrape all of the loose paint with either a hand scraper or a sander. Loose particles are waiting to peel the new coat of paint.

2. Wash the scraped surface thoroughly. It is always a good idea to wash a surface with a bleach such as chlorox to destroy all of the old mildew, especially on the North side

of a house. Chalking paint should be washed with TSP and water.

3. Use a high quality primer for the bare spots.

4. Caulk all open spots thoroughly with a good caulk. Consumer Report recently rated the caulks, and DAP with silicone was the top rated brand.

Painting itself is a pleasure after preparation. Both latex and oil base paints are fine, although our preference is a high quality latex because of the ease of painting and cleanup. Latex can be painted over oil base, but oil should not be painted over latex. Semi-gloss paint is however often recommended since it tends to resist dirt more effectively.

### WATER IN YOUR BASEMENT?

By Rich Olcott

Once or twice a year, the VECA area receives a real frog-choker of a rainstorm: curbs awash and drainage canals running high. Unfortunately, some VECA basements also run high. Not just wall seepage but flooding, from cellar drains running in the wrong direction.

Memphis actually has two sewer systems. The sanitary system carries outflow from homes and commercial buildings. The storm system connects to the drains by the curb. The two run parallel to the sewage treatment plant, but they are not supposed to interconnect. Wear and tear occasionally break through the pipe walls separating the two systems. When it rains hard enough to fill the storm system, those breakthroughs allow storm water to carry germ-laden sanitary outflow back where it came from: the household connection and our basement drains.

Part of the City's job is to repair any breakthroughs that occur. It is very difficult to locate them. According to Mr. Sam Polk, with the City of Memphis Department of Public Works, rainwater filling a basement at Snowden and McLean may have entered the sanitary system anywhere between Jackson and Overton or beyond. The City has some electronic equipment that can help, but he has found more breaks by accident, during other maintenance work, than by systematic search.

The City can try to alleviate breakthrough

problems by using chemicals and a high-pressure hose to flush any obstructions out of the sewer. Mr. Frank Pike, the Department of Public Works Deputy Director of Maintenance, sent a crew to flush lines near our house the day we put in a report.

The home-owner with a problem basement drain has another alternative. A licensed plumbing contractor can install a "backflow prevention valve" in the line. The valve has a flap that lets household water run toward the city system, but stops flow in the other direction.

Depending on the location and number of your drains, you might need one valve per drain or just one valve for the whole house. The "one per drain" solution involves breaking through the concrete floor on the downstream side of each drain. Cost will run between \$200 and \$300 per opening. The other hook-up has one master valve placed underground in the line outside the house. That installation may cost between \$500 and \$800, depending on how deep the contractor has to dig.

#### COMMERCIAL RENAISSANCE

Commercial areas of midtown adjacent to VECA are undergoing a change. For example, the restored area at Poplar and Evergreen is booming with the Squash Blossom and a restaurant. The new Kroger's store at Poplar and Cleveland will be opening later this fall. The old A & P store next to Sears has been demolished.

The Commercial Appeal recently reported that Mr. Ray's at Summer and East Parkway, will be torn down to make way for a 16000 square foot shopping center. Formerly called Ray Gammon's the restaurant was an institution featuring plate lunches and pit barbecue.

#### NEWSPAPER CARRIERS NEEDED

Evergreen News carriers are needed for the VECA areas between Evergreen, Vollintine, Jackson and Watkins. Please fill out the coupon at the end of the paper if you are willing to deliver on your block.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES

VECA supports the neighborhood businesses. Townsend's Meat Market on McLean at Tutwiler has very fresh chicken breasts and leg quarters. Dino's Italian sausage is also on sale and is one of the best in the city.

Bosi's Market has a deli with "old world" cold meats. His barbecued ham is delicious and his genoa salami and turkey are both exceptionally good.

Firestone Car Care is a friendly and competent repair service. They do a number of different types of engine work.

University Park Cleaners at McLean and Tutwiler does a booming cleaning business in the neighborhood.

Dino's restaurant recently started some new and excellent Italian specialties including lasagna, fettucini and tortellini.

#### SAMMONS AND THE RIGHT OF WAY

Jack Sammons, the new City Councilman for the southern portions of the VECA area, issued a position paper on the former Overton park Expressway right of way.

"More than 17 years ago, the bulldozers began their work, cutting a broad strip through the middle of the Evergreen community. More than 400 family residences, (some of the most beautiful homes in Memphis), 84 duplexes, 266 apartments, 44 businesses, five churches and one fire station were destroyed to make way for an interstate that was never built. This section of land cuts right through the heart of District 5, and as a candidate for councilman, this issue has to be the heart of my campaign. The proper redevelopment of that land is crucial to the economic health of our district."

"As a councilman, I will push at the state level to bring to conclusion the "studying" and get the land declared surplus. I will fight for funds in the city budget to prepare a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the corridor. I will support the community's effort to... (declare) a Conservation District to ensure that new development is in keeping with the old."

#### RHODES UPDATE

The VECA neighborhood is fortunate to have a quality institution such as Rhodes College in its midst. Rhodes welcomes our participation in these events.

The College features art exhibits in the Clough-Hansen Gallery which is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays. This month it features paintings by Robert Dick. FREE

(726-3825)

The College also features a special exhibit on Richard Halliburton Memorabilia (letters, through first-edition books, mementoes, and other items related to this legendary author/traveler), Halliburton Tower Lobby, October, November and December, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. FREE

The College also maintains an exciting Repertory theatre series. Performances include "On The Razzle" and "The Miss Firecracker Contest". Tickets and information can be obtained by calling the McCoy Theatre Box Office. (726-3839)

There are numerous lectures on campus. On November 27 there is a lecture by Dr. Leroy Walters, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Gene Therapy of the National Institute of Health Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, topic: "The Ethics of Human Gene Therapy"; Orgill Room of Clough Hall, 7:30 p.m. FREE  
The Department of International Studies presents speakers on a regular basis. On November 27 it presents Elvia Alvarado Galo; topic: "Impact of U.S. Militarization on Honduras"; Shirley M. Payne Recital Hall, Hassell Hall, 8:00 p.m. FREE (726-3572)

CITY AGENCIES

The following city agencies should be called if there is a problem in your neighborhood.

Mayor's Action Center: Any Complaint: Phone: 576-6500

Sanitation: Curbside cart Repairs 576-6508; Dial-A-Truck for weekend cleanup 576-6508; Weed Department 576-6716; and Complaints 576-6851.

Health Department: Unsanitary Practices and rodents (576-7600)

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: Problems in the greenbelt, (528-4186)

Renters and landlord problems: Memphis Housing Opportunities (526-2191)

SECURITY PATROL

The VECA Executive Committee endorses the Universal Security Patrol. The service operates on a voluntary subscription fee of \$26 per month from homeowners who receive the service. They patrol the streets around

subscribers, respond to calls for assistance, pick up mail during vacations, and respond in situations in which the police would not want to be bothered. It is a wonderful service. Their phone number is 274-1794.

VECA CHARTER

The VECA meeting of November 9 will involve an amendment to the charter. There will be a change of address of VECA from 893 Oakmont Place, Memphis, TN 38107 to 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

CLASSIFIED AD

Four line classified ads in the Evergreen News cost \$10.00 and can be sent to 1663 Tutwiler 38107.

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Tommy Edwards, Formerly at Southwestern Barbershop, is now at Gadd's Barber Shop, 1629 Union Ave. He invites friends and customers to come see him there.

FOR SALE: OLD WICKER--42" round tables and 4 chairs from Mississippi estate. \$500. 276-8277

Wanted: Handyman; 5 to 10 hours per week, painting, cleaning and odd jobs at apartment building, \$5.00 per hour, 274-3875.

Printing of the Evergreen News is done by Jodie's at Poplar and Evergreen.

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VECA NEEDS YOUR HELP

You can help VECA by paying dues, attending meetings, or assisting one of the committees. Committee membership requires only 2 hours a month. The attached coupon should be returned to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\$5.00 yearly dues \_\_\_\_\_  
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Business Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
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