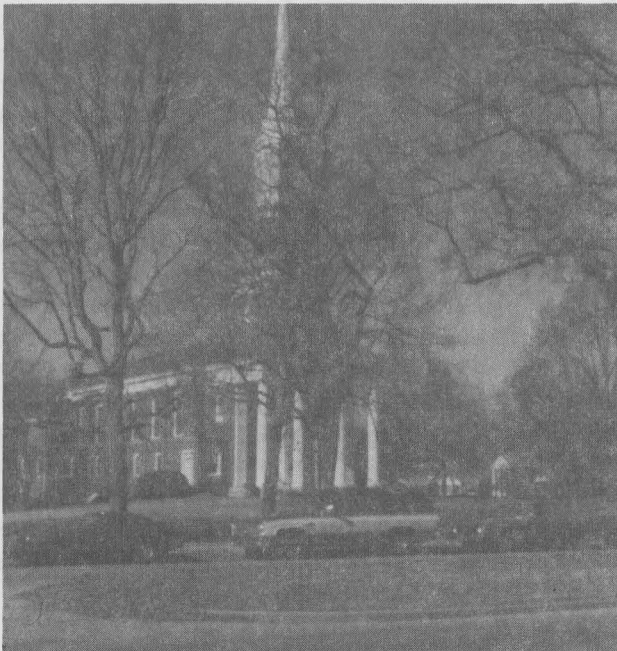
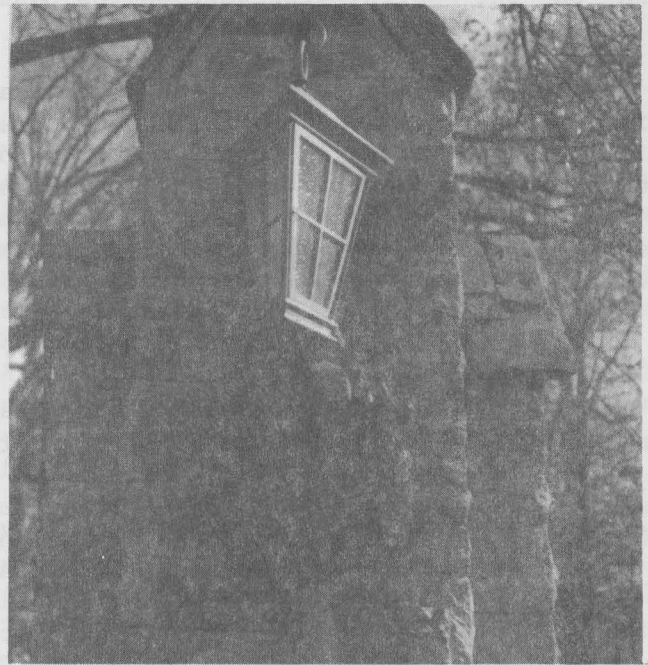


# THE EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

VECA Address: 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis 38107  
Volume XIII, Number 5, December, 1987

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and dues-paying members. It is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

The pictures on the front page portray holiday time in VECA. Some of the nicest holiday lights were on the 600 block of Auburndale (great work Pete and Charlotte) and the 1400 block of Faxon. Instead of shoveling snow, VECA residents were raking leaves.

#### VECA MEETING JANUARY 18

The annual meeting of VECA occurs on Monday evening, January 18 at 7:30 at 1663 Tutwiler.

President Grace Wallace will be chairing her last meeting. Elections will be held for the new President and Vice President of VECA. The nominating committee has nominated Bill Bullock as President and Sally Dewing as Vice President. There will be reports from VECA Committees. The Executive Committee will also recommend setting 1988 dues at \$7.50.

The highlight of the annual meeting will be the presentation of the Ditchel Award to the person or institution who has done the most in furthering the goals of VECA.

#### RICKY PEETE ELECTED

Congratulations are due to new City Councilman, Ricky Peete.

Ricky Peete was elected to the City Council from District 7, which includes the northern half of the VECA neighborhood. However, VECA voting patterns did vary considerably. Councilman Pete received 67 % at Fire Station, while his opponent Velma Lois Jones received 58 % at Cypress. Turnout of just over 20 % was similar in both precincts.

VECA resident, Herman Morris, was defeated in his bid for an At Large post to the City Council. However, his home VECA precinct of Peace Lutheran gave him 74 % of its vote.

#### BUSINESS UPDATE

Dino's restaurant will be expanding its restaurant into the building which formerly housed the Southwestern Hair Care. This is

good news for those who enjoy his Italian specialties including lasagna, fettucini stuff shells, ravioli and tortellini.

Southwestern Hair Care has remained in the neighborhood and has relocated one block north at 573 N. McLean.

The Reworks, a furniture refinishing shop, is doing a booming business at 585 N. McLean, formerly the site of Ed's Exxon. At the time we visited the store, there were a large number of pieces of furniture being refinished, including couches, dressers, and tables. The store also refinishes woodwork and trim.

Alex's Tavern at 1445 Jackson celebrated its 34th birthday in November. A recent article in the Commercial Appeal quotes owner Rocky Kasafte saying the bar specializes in "cold beer, good burgers and older music". A visit to Alex's is a cultural experience; young Rhodes students, older neighborhood residents and yuppies dot the bar stools. Happy Birthday, Alex's.

#### A REPORT CARD FOR CITY AGENCIES

It was cold and rainy outside, but inside at the October VECA meeting the conversation was heated. VECA members presented a video tape of houses and businesses in the neighborhood that did not meet the city code. Members asked why some City and County agencies were not doing their job.

This meeting suggests it is a good time to reflect by issuing a report card on agency performance in the VECA area.

An A to Steve Shular and his entire Mayor's Action Center staff. They have visited our the neighborhood, examined complaints and worked with City agencies to get these solved.

An A to Memphis Area Transit Authority and Frank Tobey for working with VECA on a thorny problem with a bus stop.

An A to Danny Lemmons and Chuck Fox at Sanitation for their responses to vacant lots, the railroad right of way and trash and litter problems.

An A to Public Work for their courtesy and comprehensive information. Although unable to solve a problem because of lack of jurisdiction, they were professional and

quick in responding to a VECA request.

A B- to the Department of Housing Improvement for responding to code violations at some houses. Housing Inspector Johnny McKay came to the VECA meeting and responded very knowledgeably to our concerns. And there is genuine progress in that we are seeing a some of those houses being fixed to meet the code. However, we wish that the agency had responded more willing, quicker and with less VECA prodding. VECA is also concerned that the work on these houses is not completed.

An D to the Health Department for not responding to numerous complaints. We do look forward to a better relationship and a more effective response by working with Mike Kendall of the Health Department who appeared before the Housing Committee.

An F to the Department of Comprehensive Code Enforcement which has been totally unresponsive. This is the agency that checks on business in residential areas. VECA has repeatedly complained about two locations, 1819 Tutwiler and 893 Springdale. However, this agency done nothing to respond to illegal commercial operations.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT RATINGS

As a service to our residents, the Evergreen News checked the Health Department ratings for several markets in the VECA area.

Two markets received TERRIFIC ratings. The Vollintine Food Mart (see article below) had a rating of 97 percent. Townsend's Meat market scored an astounding 100 %.

However, Health Department ratings showed 73 % at Bosi's market. Complaints indicated peeling paint, dirt, and lack of proper food handling. Bosi does offer a great product in their steaks, baked ham and other cold meats. However, there is an obvious lack of concern by Bosi's for minimal levels of cleanliness.

#### HOUSING COMMITTEE CLAIMS SUCCESS

Troy Mashburn, Chairman of the Housing Committee, reported great success in its voluntary compliance program. According to Mashburn, if there is a housing problem, VECA provides the owner with information on correcting the problem. VECA provides information on problems such as roofing,

painting and yard care.

According to Mashburn, there are a number of houses that had been improved after these VECA contacts. He commended these neighbors and thanked the Housing Committee volunteers who are working on these projects.

#### OUTGOING PRESIDENT GRACE WALLACE FAREWELL REPORT

May 29, 1986 was the date on which VECA emerged from a period of dormancy that had lasted several months. There had been no meetings and Evergreen News for some time. Margaret Dichtel, Martha Heinemann and Tom Kepple called a Neighborhood Awareness Meeting and breathed life back into the Association. The willingness of people to volunteer to work on committees encouraged these leaders to get the Association functioning.

Margaret Dichtel's death in April 1987 was a sad loss for VECA but the members she had inspired determined to carry on their plans. The executive committee has met monthly during 1987 and the membership has held four meetings. The geographic boundaries of the association have been redefined, and ratified, the by-laws have been revised and adopted, the charter of incorporation has been reissued and the number of members has increased.

Most importantly, the Evergreen News has been published and distributed bimonthly. Active committees are handling membership, housing, business, and public relations.

Despite the fact that I had not anticipated serving as president, the months I have held the office have been good ones for me. I have learned much about the Association, the neighborhood and the satisfaction of working with a group of diverse people who are mutually interested in making the neighborhood a place of good abode.

As my last act as President, I will address the issue of noise from the Rhodes campus. A neighborhood resident expressed a concern through a classified ad in this issue. I will ask the Executive Committee of VECA to adopt this concern as a special project. We will contact residents who express concern and we will mediate with Rhodes in addressing the noise problems.

Thanks to VECA and best wishes for 1988.

## LICK CREEK

Lick Creek--problem or resource? A VECA neighborhood resident recently contacted the VECA housing committee about her back yard collapsing into Lick Creek. She was wondering if VECA could help her in getting the city to act to restore her back yard.

Lick Creek is a creek and not a drainage ditch. It starts on Central, East of McLean and winds through Overton Park where it is lined with a wall and has bridges over it. It moves from the area of University and North Parkway to Auburndale at the railroad right of way. Most of that section is covered. It then goes north and finally west until it passes the neighborhood boundary at Watkins.

The creek carries away water after storms and serves as a haven for birds and plants. As a creek, it is covered by environmental laws. Hedge clippings, old sinks, and used motor oil should not be dumped into the creek. Violations should be reported to Cheryl Poirier at the Health Department, phone 576-7805 or 576-7775.

The answer to the resident with a collapsed yard was not very pleasing. That section of the creek is not owned by the city, since the original homeowners did not give the city an easement. The previous owner put up a wall to extend his usable property. Thus, according to the Public Works department of the City, the owners are responsible for correcting the damage themselves.

## VOLLINTINE FOOD MART

The fourth generation of Tong grocers is behind the counter of Vollintine Food Mart at 1590 Vollintine.

C.J. is re-arranging stock like building blocks, ever so helpful to his dad Chris and his uncle Patrick, who obviously believe a child should grow up in the business just as they and their father and grandmother before them. Tom Tong has a grocery near Mitchell High School and grandmother Annie had one in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi. Pat and Chris Tong have been running the market at Vollintine and Avalon for two and half years.

The remodelled interior features a clean swept tile floor; new refrigerator units line the walls. The immaculate meat cutting area received a 97/100 at its most recent Health Department inspection.

Steaks are the specialty of the house. The parking lot is swept daily, and even the necessary hodgepodge of refrigeration equipment at the outside rear of the building is clean.

This is the kind of grocery where you can stop by on the way home from work and get what you need for supper tonight and breakfast tomorrow morning. Neighborhood residents stop in to buy the sandwiches that Pat makes fresh while you wait. The produce is fresh and prices are competitive.

## CLASSIFIED AD

Five line personal classified ads cost \$10.

The Evergreen News is also accepting business advertisements. A column ad which is two inches long costs \$20 per issue or \$100 for 6 issues. The Evergreen News has a circulation of 2500 newspapers and is published every two months.

Send ads to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler 38107

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## NOISE

Late at night, from the RHODES campus?  
TIRED OF IT? ME, TOO.

Can a group get results where individuals  
have failed? Write me at:

Boxholder

P.O. Box 12563

Memphis, TN 38182-0563

Replies held in confidence

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## EVERGREEN NEWS NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Evergreen News was published continuously from 1969 to 1985. For almost 2 years this valuable tool of neighborhood expression disappeared. It was resurrected through the hard work of two neighborhood leaders. The delivery system is in excellent shape. However, the Evergreen News DESPERATELY needs the following: 1. Reporters to compile information of relevant stories. 2. Writers and proofreaders. 3. Someone to distribute papers to the delivery volunteers. 4. Someone to contact businesses for advertising. 5. A photographer.

The Evergreen News needs help. Volunteers for the Evergreen News should send a note to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107 or call Mike Kirby at 274-3875 if you would like to volunteer your assistance.