

The Evergreen News

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by VECA, Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association
DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES

1663 Tutwiler Memphis, TN 38107

Volume XIV, Number 1, February, 1988

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The *Evergreen News* is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. 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 problems and successes in the area.

OUR FEATHERED NEIGHBORS

by Lula C. Coffey



Yes, we have a lot of birds in our area, and Lick Creek is a big factor in attracting them. Birds need water the year round. Lick Creek never runs dry and seldom freezes over. By standing on any of the bridges late in the afternoon, it is easy to see some six, eight or more species coming down to drink and bathe. Occasionally a Belted Kingfisher rattles all the way up the creek from Wolf River. Among our permanent residents we have the Cardinal, Mockingbird, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Flicker. We will forget about the blackbirds - too many at times.

In the winter our visitors from the North include Purple Finch, Goldfinch, House Finch (some stay over to nest), White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. These birds will leave us around the first of May, but by then, summer visitors from the South have arrived. Some of these are Purple Martin, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Northern Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Wood Pewee, Crested Flycatcher and Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

A newcomer to our neighborhood is the Mississippi Kite. Closely related to the hawks, it has a wingspread of some 35 inches. The adults are dark grey beneath, pale grey heads, and grey on upperside of their wings. (From underneath they appear to be all black) They have nested in Overton Park for some years, but recently they have moved out into residential areas. They feed exclusively on large insects, and it is a beautiful sight to see these graceful birds soaring, swooping, soaring.....

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Lula C. Coffey was proclaimed "First Lady of Birding" in Tennessee at a recent meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. She and her husband of over 55 years, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., are renowned for their contributions to the study of bird distribution, migration and especially bird sounds and are Field Associates in Bioacoustics with the Florida State Museum, University of Florida.

Mrs. Coffey's travels have made her knowledgeable of the bird life in many exotic countries, but she eagerly helps interested novices to discover the identity and behavior of the local birds. Her enthusiasm is contagious as she nurtures their interest and her company is in great demand. As a docent at Brooks Memorial Art Gallery she is known to many more Memphians and was Volunteer of the Year in 1982.

VECA MEETING NOTICE

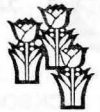
MARCH 14, 1988 7:30 p.m.

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church
1663 Tutwiler

Lula C. Coffey will present a very interesting program on birds of our neighborhood and surrounding areas.



SPRING IS HERE



Spring is here and it is a good time to take stock of improvements that can be made in our homes.

First and foremost, it is time to paint those houses that have peeling paint. Your house is your major investment. It will deteriorate quickly in the southern climate without a coat of paint.

Second, it is a good time to clean up the yard, porches, garages and basements. All you need to do is leave discarded materials at the curb and they will be picked up by the Sanitation Department.

Third, the beauty of VECA is in its distinctive houses and mature trees and shrubs. Go to your favorite nursery and purchase a tree. If you cannot afford a tree check your yard for seedlings that may have started on their own.

Fourth, there is nothing more beautiful than azaleas. During the month of April, McLean, between Jackson and Vollintine, is one of the most beautiful streets in the city. Azaleas are inexpensive, easy to plant and require little care once they are established. Most of all, they thrive in shaded conditions. It would be a terrific neighborhood project if all VECA residents planted azaleas throughout the neighborhood.

Spring is a time of rededication and renewal for our homes and neighborhood. Our individual efforts are contagious. Fellow neighbors want to keep their property in better shape when they see their friends making these efforts.

VECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Newly elected President Bill Bullock brought the VECA executive committee to order at its monthly meeting on February 1. Sally Dewing, the new Vice President was at the meeting.

The topics discussed included the rezoning of Rhodes, noise from the Rhodes campus, the Dichtel Award, The Evergreen News, the infrastructure of the neighborhood such as sewers and Lick Creek, and businesses in the neighborhood. The chairperson of the business committee reported that her survey of business needs suggested that the neighborhood would like more restaurants.

VECA DUES

YOU CAN HELP

Please send your yearly dues of \$7.50 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.

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.

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The VECA housing committee met with government officials on a problem with a neighborhood business. The committee appreciated the enthusiastic support and assistance of the Division of Community Development and its representative Rick Masson and the Health Department and its representative Mike Kendall.

RHODES ZONING REQUEST

Commentary

By Troy Mashburn, Jr.

The recent rejection of the Rhodes College zoning request by the City Council points up several areas where we as neighbors should take note. As most of you know, Rhodes was seeking to obtain a specialized zoning classification for colleges and universities. This particular classification allows the college to construct just about anything on its campus without having to seek prior zoning approval. As it had done during the sixties, Rhodes has again developed a master plan for development for the next 25 years. Present zoning for the school requires that any variance from that plan must again be presented to the zoning board for approval, since the zoning is the same as that for single family residences. The reasoning is understandable in the case of single family properties, although Rhodes feels the logic is a bit more difficult to support in their own case.

Rhodes spent many hours with the neighborhood association that surrounds it on three sides, VECA, trying to explain its plan and the reasons for its request for the specialized zoning. Along the way, ad hoc groups and pre existing groups within the VECA boundaries sprang up to oppose the zoning request. In every case that I know of, these groups had nothing but praise for Rhodes, for its accomplishments, and for what it has meant to the community. However, they did not feel comfortable surrendering some measure of "say so" they

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CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

ROOFING PROBLEMS IN VECA

This month begins a series of articles on roof problems which was written by VECA resident Steve Shelton.

If a brown spot appears on your ceiling, you probably have a roof leak. If one rainy morning, water drips from that spot into your oatmeal, you have a bad leak. If plaster and pigeons begin to drop into your oatmeal, you probably need a new roof.

Why are roofs such a problem in VECA? In the spring of 1971, the area was subjected to a violent storm, some say a tornado, with driving winds and hail. Nearly every roof was destroyed or seriously damaged. Since roofs last an average of 15 to 20 years, most VECA roofs are now at the end of their useful life.

The heavy rains of the last three months have created further problems, as water seeps into cracks and flashing. The rains seem to have exposed our weaknesses.

Some residents have tried a short-term solution of patching a roof. If the roof is in bad shape, you can expect another leak that will damage the plaster. Since oatmeal is pasty enough without plaster, maybe you should know what to look for to determine if a roof should be replaced. We will cover those basics in the next issue of the Evergreen News.

had (and still have) over campus development to some future and unknown college administration. Their fears are understandable, whether one agrees with them or not.

It is regrettable that we as a community could not stand up with one voice and express what is best for the neighborhood; that various groups, all basically after the same thing, had to spring up for a single purpose. All of us involved - VECA, Rhodes View, Hein Park Civic Association, Rhodes College, and others - ARE after the same thing.

As a neighbor of yours committed to the VECA community, as one who has worked for many hours over the last 2 years on the VECA housing committee, and as an Orthodox priest with many of his parishioners living in and committed to the VECA neighborhood, let me issue this challenge. Many of you spent hours in dealing with the proposed zoning request, some for and some against. However seriously you perceived the threat of losing this battle, let me assure you that there are MORE THREATENING AND CRITICAL ISSUES AT HAND.

Let me ask you to take half of the energy that you expended on the zoning issue and offer it to YOUR community association, VECA. There is much that is being done now by a few, but there is much more that can and should be done. This is OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Let's all work together to make it better, a place of which we can all be proud.

**TOWNSEND'S
MEAT MARKET**



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643 N. McLEAN BLVD.

276-1636

RHODES REZONING

The following address was made by Dr. David Stanford, who spoke eloquently at the City Council on this issue. "My question is why can't there be two winners? There is not really a conflict of interests or issues here. There is not a head-on collision between what the two opposing sides want. The confounding problem is how you are trying to achieve the end that you want.

It seems apparent from the remarks made here today that we have a mutual admiration society going and I think it is still very strong. I think that the neighborhood

certainly appreciates the great contribution that Rhodes College makes, not only to the neighborhood, but also in the city.

I think that Rhodes College is a real jewel for Memphis, not just in the aesthetic sense, but in its product of people who hopefully will stay in this community and make continued contributions in its leadership and development. But that jewel is fixed in a setting, and that setting is the neighborhood which surrounds Rhodes College.

The neighborhood has been good to Rhodes. Rhodes College says that they have tried to be good neighbors and, indeed, I think they have. They have made an effort to be good neighbors and that's witnessed by continued dialogue that they have carried on with the neighborhood associations.

The basic issues seem to be, number one, that Rhodes College wants to be freed of the encumbrance, the bureaucratic hassle that they have to go through, to change a light bulb, or paint a room, or whatever they want to do in their orderly growth and development. On the other hand, the neighborhoods want the right to voice their concern as to how this growth and development proceed.

It seems to me that the City Council faces two important issues. One is growth and the second is protection, to somehow promote orderly and reasonable growth but at the same time protecting what is there, preserving what is there. I don't see those two responsibilities as being incompatible.

I think that it is possible to achieve both those ends, of promoting growth and protecting. If the problem is in the zoning law, surely the zoning law can be changed, it can be amended or whatever the procedural thing is. I don't see that those two issues are incompatible."

MARGARET DICHTEL AWARD

Margaret Dichtel was one of the founding members of VECA and its first president. She strongly believed that neighbors working in a community organization could accomplish together what they as individuals or government could not do. Her faith in the value of neighboring and the importance of grassroots community action is the VECA philosophy.

The Margaret Dichtel Award is presented annually to a member of VECA who embodies the principles of neighboring and community action. Each nominee must be nominated by a current VECA member. The nomination should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. To be considered for the

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 Complaints: Phone: 576-6851.

Police Department: Any complaint about crime, strangers in neighborhood, disruptive houses, noise and parties. Speak to the policeman, if possible, when he comes to the block and insist that he solve the problem. If he does not, call the police again at once. Memphis now has a 911 number that can be used for the police.

ADVERTISING

- Four line classified ads in the Evergreen News cost \$10.00.
- 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.
- Send copy for ads to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler 38107

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 **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 **Evergreen News** needs the following: 1. Reporters and writers to compile information of relevant stories. 2. Delivery in the area west of Evergreen and north of Jackson.

The attached coupon should be returned to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

\$7.50 yearly dues _____

Write for Evergreen News _____

Deliver Evergreen News _____

Business Committee _____

Housing Committee _____



first Award, the nomination must be received by April 1, 1988. The Award will be presented in the spring of each year. In 1988, the Award will be presented at the May VECA meeting.

The Award will be presented to a current VECA member who lives in the VECA area. There is no specific length of membership required and the awardee need not be an officer. The awardee will be an individual who works to strengthen relationships of community members, tackle problems that threaten the integrity of the community, make the neighborhood a better place to live, improve VECA's image city-wide, and evidence a commitment to the neighborhood and the concept of a neighborhood.

Nominations should be sent to: Mrs. Lois Fingerett, Chair; Selection Committee; 949 University; Memphis, Tennessee 38107.

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MIDTOWN PRESCHOOL

Memphis Montessori School (MMS) provides half-day, full-day, and after-school care for 3-6 year-olds (plus a summer program for 3-7 year-olds). MMS is a parents' cooperative, founded on the following principles: involving parents in their children's education, respecting children's natural inclination to learn, fostering independence, creativity and self-discipline, encouraging sexual and racial equality, helping children resolve conflicts nonviolently, and encouraging good nutrition.

Parents donate a minimum of 5 hours per month, generally by serving on various committees which run the school. A professional staff of three serve as classroom instructors for around 25 children.

Interested parents are encouraged to call 274-1301 to make an appointment to observe the classroom. MMS is located in a quiet, midtown neighborhood at 1552 Monroe, one block north of the Crosstown post office.

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On March 10, the VECA Executive Committee declared a STATE OF EMERGENCY in the neighborhood because of the rezoning request for the corner of Jackson at Hawthorne by E.E. McAteer and the Religious Roundtable.

This property is now zoned residential and was declared part of the residential corridor system by the City Council. Mr. McAteer wants to rezone it to office space which will give it a commercial focus.

The VECA community has worked hard at neighborhood preservation. The movement of offices into residential areas will be the first step in the destruction of the neighborhood.

Mr. McAteer has chosen to circumvent the Land Use Control Board and the City Council. Rather, he has elected to use the "back door" of the Board of Adjustments. Conversations with Mr. McAteer suggest he is adamant about this change.

A hearing to consider these changes has been scheduled by the Board of Adjustment at the Memphis City Hall in the City Council chambers on March 23 at 1:00. A public demonstration of opposition and a large contingent of support at the meeting are necessary. VECA needs the help of all neighbors.

- We need at least 100 contributions of \$10.00 each in order to pay for an attorney. Please send your contribution immediately to VECA Treasurer Martha Heinemann at 705 N. Belvedere 38107.

- We need help in constructing lawn signs which will be placed in the area surrounding the Jackson and Hawthorne property. We also need volunteers to put up the signs.

- We must have a large turnout at the meeting on March 23. A large caravan will form on Hawthorne between Jackson and Vollintine at 12:15 and it will proceed to the meeting at City Hall. Rides are available by calling Julie Borys.

- Please write Mr. McAteer at 3295 Poplar, Memphis, TN 38112 or call him at 458-3795 to express polite, though firm opposition to his attempted rezoning.

We need your help.

**Attend the Rezoning Meeting
City Hall**

Wednesday, March 23

1:00

Caravan Leaving at 12:15

Rides Available

**Call Julie Borys 272-2672
To Offer Your Help**