

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 7, October 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, neighborhood residents, businesses, and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the west, Cypress Creek on the north, Trezevant on the east, and North Parkway on the south. Contact VECA by writing to: 1663 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107.

VECA MEETING

EVERYONE INVITED

VECA Priorities

Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?

Topics

Is McAteer Back?

A NEW VECA Housing Program

The House at Jackson/Barksdale

News About the Evergreen News

Reducing Breakins Along the Railroad

VECA Schools

Bring Your Concerns to the Meeting

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church

1663 Tutwiler

Monday, November 14

7:30 p.m.

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church

By Annice Jennings

History reaches out to you from this neighborhood church located at 1663 Tutwiler and Dickenson Street.

Have you heard the sweet tone of its bell pealing on Sunday morning inviting you to worship. Do you know that this bell, weighing two thousand pounds and measuring about four feet in diameter, was hung in the tower of the old Court Avenue Church over 100 years ago.

EVERGREEN NEWS CARRIERS NEEDED

Problems in delivery call Julie Borys:

272-2672

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church, a member of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, is a composite congregation formed of two distinct groups.

Oldest of these two groups was the Court Avenue Presbyterian Church, known in its earliest days as the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Memphis. Members of this group were meeting as early as 1827 although not officially chartered. Later in August of 1840, a congregation of 17 organized the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Memphis. In 1906 this church body affiliated with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. On June 7, 1902, also on Court Avenue, a congregation of 26 organized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In 1926 this group built the present structure on Tutwiler. Since all of the pastors ministering to this group up to that time had borne the name of Lindsay, the new church was named Lindsay Memorial as a tribute to them.

In 1932 the two groups united and agreed to worship in the Tutwiler structure and to retain the name Lindsay Memorial Church, but the combined group elected to become a part of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Now, come inside to view the two memorial windows taken from the old Court Avenue Church when it was torn down. These stained glass windows are in the sanctuary of the church. The window on the left as you face the chancel is in memory of the late Charles Wesley Goyer, a tireless church and civic leader, and a true philanthropist. The window

on the right is in memory of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Although not a member of the church until some time after the war, he had a reverence for the Bible, the Church and its ordinances. In the late 70's, he presented himself before the Court Avenue Session asking to be received as a member.

Other notable relics include a beautiful oil painting hanging on the south wall of Fellowship Hall and the pew beneath is the one used by the Forrest family.

The history of this church has always included community service, and Lindsay Memorial continues to pursue that endeavor today.

Some of these community activities include: (1) the AA meetings three times a week, (2) the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA) meetings, (3) Church Women United (business womens group) meetings, (4) a meeting place for the American Council of the Blind.

Visit Lindsay Memorial Church and, as they say, "Meet friendly people that serve God and would like to be of service to you".

EVERYONE IS WELCOME: Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. and Worship Service at 11:00 A.M.

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Trash I Have Known

Part II

Grace Spice Wallace

Almost five years have passed since The Evergreen News published my statement entitled "Trash I Have Known". I realize that many

aspects of the hobby I described then remain the same today. Picking up the litter from the streets in my neighborhood is still an activity I pursue almost daily and continue to find rewarding.

The litter has not changed much nor has it decreased in amount. The supply is self renewing. There is always litter in the morning and more of it in the evening of the very same day .

Environmentalists propose this rule for getting it picked up: the first who sees it, picks it up. It appears that we abide by this to about the same degree that we follow the Golden Rule.

However, one aspect of my hobby has improved. There are now more receptacles into which I can empty my bags of trash. Rhodes College has provided some around Spann Place and Townsend's Market has one at McLean and Tutwiler. One that used to be located at McLean and Jackson is no longer there, but the one where West Drive meets Jackson is still in place.

The public response to my activity is still largely approving. I have no way of knowing whether the persons who say "I ought to do what you're doing" have started to do it but I am sure that those who say "I do that on my street" are truly doing it.

There is one aspect of my hobby, however, that has changed. The supply of litter is endless. The disposal of it is manageable, even profitable. Dixie Recycling on Jackson is paying \$0.50 a pound for aluminum cans and \$0.01 a pound for glass. Handling \$1.00 worth of glass is not all fun but getting bottles off the streets and getting glass back into circulation is worth the effort. And think of all the space that is freed up in our overflowing landfills!

But there have been changes in my life style in recent months that affect my hobby. About a year ago I agreed to take on a job that pays money so it must be taken seriously. It is a dangerous job that may be hazardous to my health because it requires being sedentary at a desk, at a table, within reach of a telephone. Being seden-

tary during my working hours means that I must be more active in my non-working hours if I am going to avoid gaining weight.

So, the leisurely strolls with Snooper, the aging beagle who no longer is with me, are now a thing of the past. I must walk farther and faster and more often if I wish to counteract the sedentary hours.

It is obvious that in this new health oriented life style, my litter retrieval must be modified. I must, to maintain my brisk pace, step around/over some trash. Big stuff, obvious stuff, fast food boxes and sacks, (pizza boxes are more common than five years ago and so ungainly!), super gulp cartons, cans, bottles, these I can grab up without too much loss of momentum. The items that take time and attention to retrieve, the lids and straws and straw wrappers from the super gulp ensemble, the gum and candy wrappers, the cigarette packages, the match books, these pesky blots on the landscape are remaining on the landscape. No longer do I climb every beam and descend every creek bed to capture a glinting gum paper or cellophane fragment. Glow, little paper, glimmer you'll have to stay there while I get slimmer.

[Editor's Note: Excessive litter can be a negative reflection on the neighborhood. Little litter is a positive reflection. Our own assessment is that our neighbors are picking up litter on some VECA blocks. Reminding your children to pick up their litter is an important socialization mechanism. Little can be done about the slobs who drive through the neighborhood and throw trash out their car window. However, there seems to be more litter around Snowden this school year. Mr. Simpson, how about a litter patrol?]

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The Problem House Jackson at Barksdale

The last issue of the Evergreen News reflected upon the miserable performance by Karen Kinard in taking care of the property at Jackson and Barksdale. Kinard lives in Southaven Mississippi and refuses to rent, sell or maintain the property. Numerous contacts by city and neighborhood officials have been pushed aside by Kinard.

Calls and letters have been arriving in response to the article on the Kinard house.

One neighbor wrote, "I know how depressing it must be to the people who live around the house". Another wrote, "we are grateful for all that has been done" concerning the house. Still another wrote, "thanks for trying to do something about that eyesore on Jackson". VECA Executive Committee members also received numerous calls expressing concern.

A number asked who they could call or write. Read on for the answer to this question.

Government Update

The VECA Housing Committee made one more attempt to resolve the condition of Karen Kinard's house.

City Councilman Jack Sammons, who represents the area, was called, and he promised to look into the problem. We are waiting to hear from Councilman Sammons.

The new director of the City's Division of Housing and Community Development, Greg Duckett, was asked to look into the problem. He is the supervisor of the code enforcement agency directly responsible for housing problems.

Steve Shular, director of the Mayor's Action Center, met with representatives of the neighborhood at the site. He has made arrangements for the grass to be cut and the cost to be assessed against the owner's tax bill.

We met at the property with Gary Kirk, the manager of the City's Bureau of Housing Improvement. We came away exasperated about the lack of understanding and sympathy of neighborhood problems exhibited by Kirk.

First a description: We toured the property and found the remnants of the pool filled with scuzzy water. We were told it had been sprayed with fuel oil by the city to keep down the mosquitos. Then, we saw the broken windows throughout the house. Next, the rotted wood throughout the eaves indicated a problem. Finally, the roof is in disrepair and is creating ceiling damage from leaks.

All of these are specific violations of the city law.

At this point Kirk was asked if he would enforce the code.

His answer was NO.

He called the violations, except for the pool, a matter of aesthetics.

Housing codes are based on health, safety and welfare of the citizens. Kirk said there were no health and safety violations, except the pool, and he refused to recognize welfare as a basis. He denied our position that these were violations specifically stated in the code.

Further, Kirk stated that it would be difficult to cite Kinard and bring her to court because she lived out of state.

We sought a legal opinion from a private attorney who is intimately familiar with the code. It was her unreserved opinion that the basis exists in the city code for moving against the property.

In a subsequent letter, Kirk stated that he would write Kinard about all of the violations, although he made it clear he only considers the pool to be a legal violation.

It is our hope that Greg Duckett, the new director of Housing and Community Development will

examine the code enforcement process in the agency that is under his supervision. We have heard he is an effective administrator. If he is unable or unwilling to solve the larger problem of the code, then problems brought about by irresponsible owners such as Karen Kinard will be allowed to fester.

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Shular Pursues Action

Steve Shular, director of the Mayor's Action Center, has been working to solve the Jackson at Barksdale problem house.

He was able to convince the Health Department to cite Kinard for a pattern of code violations.

A court date has been set for Friday, November 4 at 1:30. The hearing is going to be held in Division 2 of City Court, which is Judge Potter's Environmental Court. The Court is located in the lower level of the Justice Complex, Poplar at Third Street.

It would be wise for neighbors in the area of the house to appear as a show of resolution and concern about this persistent problem.

Steve Gadbois can provide further information about the hearing. He can be reached at 278-4116.

This is important, neighbors. Attending the hearing is in your self-interest.

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MLGW Update

Jack hammers blasting, communication radios blaring, heavy equipment roaring and dozens of workmen. No, it is not a construction site, it is a VECA street in the middle of the day.

MLGW is replacing gas pipes on a number of VECA streets in the Tutwiler-McLean-Evergreen area. The replacement is taking place for two reasons: the pipes are old and susceptible to rupture and the utility wants meters outside where they can be read easily.

Replacement involves putting a flexible tube inside the old pipe. Expected life for the tube is approximately 70 years.

Though the activity is disconcerting, VECA is pleased to have this work on its infrastructure.

Development at the Lunati House

The house at Jackson and Hawthorne owned by the Lunati family spawned a major VECA effort when Ed McAteer attempted to rezone the property to put in offices for the Religious Roundtable in the spring of this year.

Ed McAteer finally gave VECA officers his assurance that he would not pursue this effort.

The property was recently transferred to a trustee for \$150,000. McAteer was seen on the property. There were at least 4 work trucks on the property. A check of the code enforcement office

indicated that no one had applied for building permits.

What is happening? Is this the return of Zoning Controversy?

VECA called McAteer. He would not provide any information, but he did indicate that the trustee would provide information.

The trustee indicated he could not reveal the identity of the purchasers. The VECA representative asked if Mr. McAteer was one of the individuals involved. The answer was that the information was not available. When told that McAteer had indicated that the trustee should provide information, the trustee indicated that he would first have to speak with McAteer to release that information.

The trustee indicated the improvements were cosmetic and not structural. He indicated that they were tasteful changes. He also gave the impression that the property would be put up for sale.

The work on the building includes replacement of deteriorated wood on the exterior of the building and landscaping. There is also work being done on the gatehouse. The exterior of the house is certainly looking better.

The VECA Executive Committee met in special session. It reached the conclusion that there were no zoning changes and the property was not being used as an office. Therefore, there is no reason to act, the committee reasoned, unless zoning or office changes appear to commence.

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Musings of an Editor

By Mike Kirby

I would like to reflect on some of the high points of the last two years.

The high point had to be the first issue. I had no help from anyone. I had no experience. I had a computer and a software package that did newspaper columns.

It was nice to receive calls after that first issue from the neighbors expressing happiness that once more a newspaper was being published.

The best issue was also the shortest and fastest. The Ed McAteer rezoning issue was known by VECA on a Tuesday. The executive committee met on a Wednesday. A one-page newspaper was written on Thursday, printed on Friday and distributed on the weekend. What a thrill to see the neighborhood move so quickly.

The McAteer article which described VECA's work on the controversy and the Jackson at Barksdale house produced the most positive response. Several city officials marvelled at the organizational ability of the neighborhood after the McAteer article.

It is not possible to thank each person individually. However, Teresa Bullock does a terrific job in formatting the paper. Christie Dinkelacker and Dottie Sachritz pulled together advertising. Martha Heinemann, Julie Baker, Marsha Starck and Margaret Cardwell look after editorial tasks. Shelly Fingerette provided beautiful photographs. Julie Baker, Annice Jennings, Steve

Shelton, Julie Borys, Rich Olcott and Grace Wallace have done some wonderful stories.

Julie Borys has done a heroic job in distribution. And the paper could not be a reality without the dozens of faithful newspaper carriers.

I hope to continue writing, though I will no longer edit the Evergreen News. The paper has a long and glorious past. I remember the first editor, John Bruhwiler, who took on the task when it was not popular to be involved in neighborhood organizations. And who can forget Rick Thomas and the years of excellent issues he provided.

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