

The Evergreen News

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by VECA, Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES

1663 Tutwiler

Memphis, TN 38107

Volume XV, Number 2, March 1989

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.

EVERGREEN NEWS CARRIERS NEEDED

Problems in delivery call

Julie Borys:

272-2672

VECA Meeting

Monday Evening, March 13, 1989
at 7:30

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church
1663 Tutwiler

*Come Find Out What Is Going On In Your
Neighborhood!*

A NEIGHBORHOOD TRADITION

By Steve Shelton

A large painting of Venice looms from one wall. On the opposite wall is a huge facsimile of the Italian Flag. In a booth underneath the flag, four college students discuss their history assignment. Close by, two businessmen plan an afternoon meeting. A ten year old girl feeds her baby sister one of her glazed carrots at a nearby table. Friends greet one another across the room. Waitresses and customers call each other by first names. Sound familiar? You must have eaten at *DINO'S* on a recent Thursday.

DINO'S, located at the corner of McLean and Tutwiler, appeals to just about everyone. For those with thirty minutes for lunch, *DINO'S* offers a home cooked, Southern style plate lunch served in a matter of minutes. For those in the mood for Italian food, *DINO'S* offers fettucini, spaghetti, manicotti, and ravioli--the dish for which *DINO'S* is famous. Of course there are also steaks, burgers, breakfast food, and salads. For those who like a little entertainment with lunch, there is Rudy.

Rudy Grisanti is the owner of the neighborhood eatery. Dino, his father, opened the restaurant with

Rudy sixteen years ago, but the history of *DINO'S* predates 1973.

Dino entered the restaurant business shortly after World War II. When he returned from Africa where he served under General Patton, the senior Grisanti worked for his stepfather, Frank Benenetti. Frank created the ravioli recipe that Rudy uses today. When Frank retired, Dino and his brother, Frank Benenetti, Jr., bought their father's downtown restaurant, *THE STATE CAFE*. Rudy speaks fondly of the days at *THE STATE CAFE*: "When I was seven I started going downtown with Daddy on the weekends. At first, I would bus tables. Gradually, I was given more and more responsibility. I'll never forget when Daddy taught me to make ravioli. My first few batches were not spicy enough. Daddy finally recognized the problem was the size of my hand. You see, my grandfather and father measured ingredients by the handful. My hands were smaller, so I wasn't seasoning enough. We made some adjustments and I eventually got it right."

In 1964 Dino bought Frank's portion of the restaurant. In 1971, Rudy became a full partner in *THE STATE CAFE*. The next year, the Beale Street Urban Renewal Project supervisors decided *THE STATE CAFE* had to relocate.

John Semos, a Greek restaurant owner, told a friend of Dino's that *THE SOUTHWESTERN GRILL*, Semos' restaurant, was for sale. In 1973, Dino and Rudy bought the VECA neighborhood restaurant, added the name, *DINO'S*, to the title and opened for business.

Since *DINO'S* opening in 1973, there have been many changes. A sad one was the death of Dino. Not only was his death a loss to the Grisanti family, but also to the community. Ask anyone who knew Dino, and you will get descriptions such as "family man", "civic-minded", "generous" and just plain "nice man". In the

summer of 1986 Rudy remodeled the dining room and expanded The Italian Menu. Last summer the owner acquired more space next door and added another dining room.

A sense of family tradition continues in the presence of Rudy's two sons--thirteen year old, Dino, and nine year old, Mario. On weekends Dino and Mario can be found busing tables, operating the cash register, and of course, telling jokes.

It is this easy-going attitude that helps create the atmosphere that the cafe's regular customers appreciate. Hopefully, *DINO'S* will continue to be special to the neighborhood for a long time.

"WHERE ITALY COMES TO YOUR TABLE"



Giovanni's
 282 N. CLEVELAND
 2 blocks north of Poplar • 725-6660

Authentic Italian cookery includes Bistecca Bracciola, Polla alla Potentina, Scampi, Trota alla Livornese, Lobster Tail served on a bed of Imported Fettuccine, Salmone en Fettuccine Portofino, Salmone Prima Vera, Trota alla Fiorentina, Filet of Sole alla Giovanni, Snails, Veal and Roman Cheese, Veal Piccata, Veal Marsala, Petti alla Giovanni, Eggplant Parmigiana, Oysters Rockefeller, Stuffed Mushrooms, Steaks (including Entrecote Saute Au Poivre), and Seafood. Tues-Thurs 4-11, Fri & Sat 4-11:30, Sun 4-10:30. Closed Mon. Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club.

TRINITY PARENTING ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP

Parenting enrichment will be the focus of a community-wide workshop at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1738 Galloway, on Friday evening, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. The event will assist parents of children and youth in dealing with discipline, developmental needs of children, and spiritual dimensions of parenting. Sub-topics include the following areas: listening and self-disclosure for improved communication, conflict and intimacy, children's self-esteem, single parenting, blended families, and relating to grandparents.

The leaders for the six hour event are The Reverend Lucretia Hurley-Browning and Dr. Ron McDonald, pastoral counselors. Lucretia is noted for her work with spiritual growth issues and women's groups. Ron's specialty area is pediatric pastoral counseling. He is also noted for his abilities as a folk singer and storyteller.

Child care will be available. Each family unit will be charged a \$10.00 fee. **THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 27.** For information call Trinity at 274-6895.

Vollentine Food Market



Chris and Patrick Tong, owners
Vollentine at Avalon Tel.: 278-3990

**Fresh Meat and Produce
 We deliver to VECA area**

WHY HOUSE SALES TAKE SO MUCH TIME

By Jennifer Jenson and Richard Cartwright

The process of buying a new home is often more of an endurance test than a simple financial transaction. Unless the entire process is an equity sale/loan assumption or is financed entirely with cash, it is the normal procedure for homebuyers to obtain a new loan on the property, a process that usually takes from four to eight weeks.

Changes in the mortgage industry are affecting the procedures used by banks, savings and loans, and mortgage companies. Loans which used to be made on the basis of good will and a "handshake" are now complicated by required documents, set procedures, and governing bodies. The growth of the secondary mortgage market has freed up additional loan money for lenders to use in making new loans while complicating the lending process by requiring compliance with strict guidelines.

There are numerous other delays along the contract-to-closing trail. In addition to complying with basic loan documentation requirements, new homebuyers find themselves investigating homeowners insurance, which for a growing number of Memphians includes optional earthquake coverage. Many lenders require that a homeowners' policy be arranged early enough to be scrutinized by the loan processor and/or brought to the closing table.

Buyers and sellers often find themselves in the position of having a contingency in their contract. A typical example would require the buyer to sell a current house before buying the new one he/she wants. Contingencies often take a month or longer to resolve, and often lead to the continued display of the "For Sale" sign in the yard until the contingencies are removed from the contract.

In older properties a frequent delay is needed repairs which result from findings in the appraisal or from an independent inspection of the dwelling. These repairs can range from repainting a closet ceiling to cover an

old water stain, to reroofing or repainting the entire house. Termite damage is a common cause for repairs in older properties.

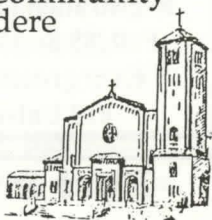
Complex title problems which must be cleared before the property can be transferred are another potential complication. Some of these problems include bankruptcy matters, ownership by an estate, ownership by a person who has become mentally incompetent, the presence of a judgment against one of the sellers which can affect the title to the property, or a pending divorce matter. In dealing with each of these situations, potential solutions are governed by laws, either of the State of Tennessee or the Federal Government.

There is no easy way to predict how long it will take for the process to culminate at the closing. What seems to be a very drawn-out process is the result of the current, labyrinthian lending/legal system. Patience and good humor are REQUIRED assets when going through the contract-sale-loan-closing procedure.

Fortunately, there are usually rewards for both buyers and sellers---a new house for the buyers, and net proceeds for the sellers.

St. Therese
Little Flower Catholic Community
Jackson at Belvedere

Sunday Eucharists
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Fr. Bob Ewing, Pastor
276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

VOLLENTINE SCHOOL NOTES

By Julie Borys

VECA is pleased to welcome Ms. Nette Hassan as principal of Vollentine Elementary School. Ms. Hassan's youthful appearance belies her 24 years' experience in teaching and administration. She follows Ms. Bertharene Young, Memphis Education Association's "Principal of the Year" for 1987-88. Ms. Young served Vollentine for three years, establishing its Individually Guided Education curriculum, a popular optional school program. She will be the principal at the new J.P. Freeman Optional School in Whitehaven.

Ms. Hassan states Vollentine's adopter, the Pickering Engineering firm, continues to offer valuable support in many areas, providing kindergarten tutors, arranging honors' day celebrations and assisting with the

JUST SAY NO program. Ms. Hassan also reminds us that Vollentine continues to participate in the REAP program at Rhodes College (i.e. an opportunity for elementary, junior high, high school, and college students to participate as students and tutors, earning the chance for a full scholarship at Rhodes).

Congratulations to sixth grader, Kilani Martin, an outstanding student at Vollentine since kindergarten. She took first place at the District Mini-Bee, a preliminary to the city wide spelling competition, and was among the top 100 spellers in the city. Congratulations also to Kimberly Woodard, fifth grader, who won Methodist Hospitals' essay competition on "What it would be like to be Handicapped".

The most exciting thing happening for many of Vollentine's fourth, fifth, and sixth graders is the proposed trip to Orlando, Florida (Disney World). The trip includes instructional tours to Tuskegee Institute and Atlanta along the way. The students are feverishly raising funds. Be generous when approached by these youthful sales people!

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH 1792 Parkway at Hawthorne

By Annice Jennings

Open Door Bible Church began on Friday evening, November 28, 1952, when a group of eight people met in the home of Mrs. Oscar White at 2014 Walker Avenue. They came to pray. A faithful ministry has flowed from those prayers of 35 years ago.

This church was founded on the premise that human beings can only come to tentative conclusions about God apart from what God has said to man in the Bible. This conviction makes Open Door Bible Church one that is centered around the study of the Scriptures and the message they have for people everywhere.

Aptly named, "Open Door", the church is not affiliated with any denomination but is trans-denominational since its members and friends are from many church backgrounds. Holy Communion is open to all who enter.

In the brochure that the Pastor, Gary D. Starbuck, gave to me, the church states a threefold purpose: (1) "To glorify God; (2) to encourage and build up this local body of believers through the careful, systematic teaching of the Bible; and (3) to share the message of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Highlighted commitments are the following ones: to the Word of God--the Bible, to the family of God--you, to your family--a primary institution of learning and growth,

and to world mission--as an extension of, but not a substitute for, a ministry to the local community.

The pastor spoke with enthusiasm when he stated that this church has an ACTIVE membership of 125. He further stated that while the church is large enough to meet persons' needs, its membership is small enough that everyone knows each other and that this sense of community has brought about mutual caring and sharing among the congregation.

Facilities include the education building, auditorium, and a recently completed Fellowship Hall which includes a full kitchen, new offices, restrooms, and a parking lot. Yes, they do have a nursery staffed by two attendants and available for all services.

Programs are offered for men, women, and youth of the church. The Youth Program offers a Wednesday night club for boys and girls (kindergarten through the 8th grade). For women who wish to exercise, an aerobics class is held Friday night, 6-7 P.M. and Saturday morning from 11:00 till Noon. Take the time to visit this church. The Door is Open. If you do not have a church affiliation, this may be the church home for which you have been looking. You will certainly be a welcomed guest.

SERVICE TIMES: Sunday School, 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship, 10:45 A.M.
Evening Worship, 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Meeting, 7:15 P.M.

TOWNSEND'S MEAT & PRODUCE MARKET	
<i>"OLD FASHION SERVICE"</i>	
643 N. McLEAN BLVD. 276-1636	

INTERNATIONAL CENTER HOUSED AT RHODES

We welcome the International Center of Greater Memphis to the Special Studies Building at Rhodes College and our neighborhood. On May 20, 1987, the International Center opened its offices at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church and was housed there until permanent quarters were found. The Center is sponsored by five organizations: **Friendship Force** is about people befriending people and bringing them closer together through international exchanges of Citizen Ambassadors. Ambassadors and hosts all have the opportunity to promote international understanding and cooperation at the grassroots level by

opening their homes to foreign visitors and visiting in homes in foreign countries.

The Memphis Council For International Visitors provides a forum which promotes respect and better understanding between persons of different cultures and national origins. The council facilitates professional programs for visitors and allows Memphians the opportunity for having social relationships with them.

Mid-south Exporter's Roundtable works together with the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to encourage more interest in foreign trade. The meetings create a forum for people interested in export marketing topics and provide a place for free exchange of ideas and experiences with the objective of securing more export business.

The World Affairs Council Of Memphis promotes dialogue on global issues affecting citizens of the greater Memphis area. The council also serves as a coordinating body for international interests in the community. The council sponsors or co-sponsors the visits of numerous scholars and policy-makers to the community, often at luncheons or receptions which are open to the membership.

The U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association has as its goal the development and strengthening of friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and the People's Republic of China. The International Center provides a place where these groups can hold meetings, plan events, prepare newsletters, welcome foreign visitors, and exchange resources and ideas. Lorraine Schneider, Executive Director of the International Center, was for five years program coordinator of The International Visitors Center in Chicago and had been a board member of the World Affairs Council for three years prior to the founding of the Center. Those interested may join any of these organizations for an nominal fee. Call 725-1056 for additional information.

PARENTING ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP	
Trinity United Methodist Church	
1738 Galloway at Evergreen	
March 31 - April 1	
Leaders: Dr. Ron McDonald and Rev. Lucretia Hurley-Browning, Pastoral Counselors	
Topics: Discipline, Developmental Stages, and Spiritual Dimensions of Parenting	
Child Care Available	
Call 274-6895 for Registration Information	

ASSOCIATION NEWS

The 19th annual meeting of the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association was held January 16th at Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian Church. The general membership meeting was attended by thirty or more

neighborhood residents. The members present elected the slate of officers presented in the November newsletter. The president for 1989 is Mrs. Julie Borys of N. Idlewild. Mrs. Sally Dewing of Jackson Avenue will assist Julie as the VECA vice-president. The offices of secretary and treasurer are appointed. The association is fortunate to have the continued, devoted service of two community residents, Mr. Rich Olcott and Ms. Martha Heinemann. Mr. Olcott of Snowden Street will remain as the VECA secretary and Ms. Heinemann of N. Belvedere will continue as treasurer. These persons will work for our community in the coming year. Julie Borys thanked Bill Bullock for his efforts as the past president of VECA. Julie spoke to those gathered at the meeting about the year ahead. She stated her job is as much to support and follow the membership's lead as it is to create any new directions.

The Rev. Billy Vaughn of Epworth United Methodist Church and a VECA resident spoke at the meeting about the State of Tennessee's planned expansion of the I-240 exchange and interstate that borders the VECA neighborhood. The plans are in a formative stage, and no official plans have been released by the State. However, Julie Borys and Rev. Vaughn felt the association should be aware of the activity as it will likely impact our community.

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH
 1792 North Parkway
 Memphis, Tennessee 38112
 (901) 278-4311

Gary D. Starbuck, Pastor
 Sunday Services: 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

"Growing Together in the Lord Jesus Christ"

ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

Former VECA President Bill Bullock assumed the chairmanship of the newly created VECA Zoning Committee. The committee will be in charge of issues related to the Land Use Control Board and the Board of Adjustments. Though it is not often called to action, this committee is important within VECA. Our community is primarily a residential neighborhood with well-defined commercial zones. Keeping commercial activity within these zones makes VECA an attractive residential environment.

The first order of business for the committee was the January rehearing before the Board of Adjustments on 930 Watkins. The Board of Adjustments for a second time refused a variance for a recording studio at 930 Watkins. Mr. Terry Starks had petitioned the board for a rehearing regarding his recording studio in a

residentially zoned area. Mr. Starks established the business in a residence and then requested a variance on the zoning. The board has heard his request twice. At the January rehearing about twenty-five concerned citizens appeared in opposition to the request. In a two hour meeting Jack Hough, VECA President Julie Borys, Klondyke Civic Club President Fred Leatherwood, Alma Morris, North Memphis Civic Club President Bonnie Collins, Marrie Fort, and Joe Hough spoke in favor of maintaining the residential area with no variances for the recording studio. Councilman Rickey Peete and neighbor Jimmie Beard spoke in favor of the zone variance. Jack Hough of N. Garland stated clearly to the board that a variance would be illegal as the laws speak to causes for granting a variance. Mr. Starks' circumstances do not apply. He is in the center of a block of existing homes. He knew the area was zoned residential when he built his studio. Variances are allowed when the nature of the property provides a hardship for its currently zoned use. This is not the case at 930 Watkins. It is a home, and all the houses on both sides of the street from Jackson to Vollintine are homes. VECA is pleased the Board of Adjustment voted to maintain the residential zoning of this area of Watkins intact. Starks has thirty days to appeal to the Circuit Court. His attorney, Homer Boyd Branan, III, stated a decision to appeal has not been made. No other business was conducted by the committee at this time. The Zoning Committee needs volunteers to occasionally attend meetings showing that VECA is well represented when its residential integrity is challenged.

**When you care enough...
to look your very best!**

*University Park
Cleaners*

FASHION CARE SINCE 1919 613 N. McLEAN

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

The largest and most active of the VECA committees, the Housing Committee, has reorganized its offices. Sally Dewing is the new chairperson. Mike Kirby remains as the Technical Coordinator. At the last meeting in January the committee discussed numerous issues, including a number of housing complaints. The committee began exploration of a special program for real estate agents. A process for contacting new neighbors was discussed. The committee has completed work on the new VECA brochure which will be used by both the Housing Committee

and the Membership Committee.

The committee is hard at work on the restoration area. It has begun a phone survey which is to be followed by property surveys and finally door-to-door surveys of the area. The committee is working with the city concerning the beautification of some city owned lots. The committee is negotiating with a community group for assistance in repairing houses of persons with low income and elderly residents. There has been some preliminary research into a development corporation which would purchase property.

The most current activity of the Housing Committee has been in regard to a court appearance on the home at 1914 Jackson. On January 6, Ms. Karen Kinard, owner of 1914 Jackson, appeared in Division 2 of City Court. The appearance was in response to complaints filed by the Department of Housing Improvement on the property at 1914 Jackson. This once lovely property has been deserted for several years and has deteriorated. A collapsed, above-ground pool continues to pose health and safety risks. Over the past year the VECA Housing Committee and neighbors have made many attempts to help Ms. Kinard to solve the problem. Offers have been made to clean up the property. When no action was taken by Ms. Kinard, community concern over the house's condition compelled the Department of Housing Improvement to respond. The department filed several housing code compliance complaints. This action resulted in the court appearance.

Fifteen neighbors were in attendance and willing to testify. Mike Kirby, a VECA Housing Committee member, and Clarence Coleman, an inspector for the Department of Housing Improvement testified before the court. After asking questions, listening to testimony, and viewing pictures of the house and yard, Judge Larry Potter found the property to be in non-compliance with city housing codes. The judge levied a substantial fine. Ms. Kinard may appeal the decision within ten days. Judge Potter stated if the property were cleaned within a reasonable amount of time, he would verify compliance after personally inspecting the property and could then reduce the fine.

The VECA Housing Committee felt the City Department of Housing Improvement and City prosecutor were responsive to the concerns of the neighborhood. The VECA community is concerned about its appearance and the safety of its housing. One of the responsibilities of an active community organization like VECA is to serve as a watchperson and spokesperson for its residents. VECA will work with anyone if they need assistance with their home.

Yes, this is an active and impressive committee.

However, more members are needed. Call Chairperson Sally Dewing to volunteer. You need only to have an interest in housing.

Annual VECA Dues

\$7.50

Make checks payable to VECA and send to
VECA Treasurer
705 N. Belvedere, 38107

VECA Census

for Residents of the area between
Watkins, Jackson, Dickinson and Faxon

VECA Members will be conducting a census on
Saturday March 11 and 18. They will have VECA
badges and other forms of identification.
Please help your neighborhood by answering the
census questions.

Evergreen Presbyterian Playschool



"Learning Through Play"



Ages 6 months - 4 years
Registration for Placement for Summer &
Fall '89 Sessions begins March 13, 1989
Evergreen Presbyterian Church

613 University 274-3740

Bosi & Son's Grocery & Catering



1701 Jackson
274-4729

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Choice Aged Meats

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