

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 3, May 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.

Annual VECA Dues

\$7.50

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

SPRINGDALE-MEMPHIS MAGNET, THE ORIGINAL OPTIONAL SCHOOL

VECA is fortunate to be a community with four Optional schools within its school boundaries: Vol-lentine Elementary, Snowden, Springdale-Memphis Magnet and Central. This article focuses on the program at Springdale.

Springdale-Memphis Magnet began in 1976 as one of the first optional schools in the city system. Parents who had a strong commitment to Open Education were instrumental in founding the program. Open Education is rooted in the idea that all children do not learn in the same manner nor teachers teach in the same style. Believing the school system could accommodate different ways of learning and teaching lead to the development of optional schools. Springdale houses an Open school and traditional school within the same campus.

Open Education embraces the concept of the total development of the individual. Children are the products of their environment and the sum total of their experiences; therefore, they mirror the home and community. The Open school attempts to mold these experiences and environmental influences into a curriculum that blends the acquisition of basic skills with the development of attitudes, self-control, and understanding of self and others necessary for personal and social growth of the individual. Springdale Magnet operates on the premise that pupils will become self-directing, self-motivating, and responsible for their behavior and learning. Teachers and pupils are partners in learning in this educational

3rd Annual Kensington Block Party



Sunday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m.



Come one, Come all!

For details call: Julie Roberts - 276-6154

environment. Springdale Magnet teachers are person-centered. They help create, organize, and establish opportunities for learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Children work in classroom centers at their own level. Individual contracts are used to organize the child's and teacher's educational plan. The children do not receive traditional report cards with grades. They are in a non-graded program where the children and their parents are given regular reports on their basic skill progress. Although a non-graded system, the students in the magnet program have always performed above the average in the basic skill testing the city school system is required to administer annually. Memphis-Magnet school is the only Open school in the City School system. The Magnet program at Springdale has grown from five classrooms to ten since its inception in 1976.

Ms. Rita Horne Porter has been the principal of Springdale for two years. Prior to coming here, Ms. Porter was principal at Hollywood Elementary. Ms. Porter is, as warm and reassuring a person, as you would want to see leading the effort in education through the partnership of the Memphis-Magnet school and the Springdale traditional school. Tucked near a busy urban corner with less than desirable outside grounds, Springdale is a clean and cheery elementary school. There are examples of children's work on the walls as you enter, always a good sign of a child-oriented environment. When the school had its open house February 23 the tours of the school were given by pairs of well-prepared students. The students explained current activities and guided visitors around the school. Springdale is one of the most "open" schools in terms of parental and community involvement in its programs. There is an applied skills curriculum in the school totally staffed by parents and other volunteers. An offering of 25 courses from

French to TV production are provided in two nine week sessions each school year. The applied skills program is for all students both in the Open and traditional program. Springdale has a strong Adopt-A-School partner in WHBQ radio. The Springdale brochure reads: "Parental and community participation is encouraged as essential to the success of education at Springdale." Mr. Herbert Lester, VECA resident on N. Avalon, is the president of the Springdale PTA. Mr. Lester states the major accomplishment this year for the PTA has been increased parental involvement for the total school and reorganizing of the committee structure of the PTA. This year the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students will go to Orlando, Florida for their school trip. Jerry Harrison was the school's representative to the city-wide spelling bee contest. Arthur Rosenthal will represent the Evergreen Optimist club April 23rd at the Board of Education in the Oratorical competition sponsored by Buckman Laboratories. The Springdale PTA will help with the May 12th School Spring Carnival.

VECA is again a community of many resources with its options in education through the public schools. We are proud to have as neighbors, Springdale and the Memphis-Magnet school.

TOWNSEND'S MEAT & PRODUCE MARKET



"OLD FASHION SERVICE"

643 N. McLEAN BLVD. 276-1636

SCHOOL NEWS

Snowden

Tom Hamilton has been named Community Education Aide. He will coordinate the use of Snowden school for community events and educational programs, seminars, etc. His job is to promote the use of the facility for the education of the whole community. Call Snowden and ask for Mr. Hamilton for further information.

Congratulations to Snowden Jr. High for receiving The Gold Award. This award was presented by United Way to Snowden for exceeding all other Jr. High schools in contributions in this year's campaign.

Snowden Band, Orchestra, and Choir will perform in Atlanta, April 27-30. The Historical Society will

journey to Washington, D.C. May 9-13. The Science club will be going to Dauphin Island. Snowden's Spring Carnival will be May 6 followed by Snowden's Sunset Symphony.

Congratulations to Snowden students, Ingrid Ekstrom and Amber Brown who won the Grand Prize for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade level competition in this year's city-wide Science Fair.

Vollentine

Vollentine school participated in the "Jump for Heart in March" and raised \$1,200 for the for the American Heart Association.

The Vollentine Drum and Drill team of boys and girls, grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th will participate in the April 21st Cotton Carnival Parade.

May 9th, Vollentine staff and parents will have their Honors Program and dinner at McCormick Auditorium to recognize the achievements of the graduating 6th grade students.

May 26th will be Vollentines May Fest for students, faculty, and community.

Vollentine Food Market



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

Fresh Meat and Produce
We deliver to VECA area

HELP FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON DICKINSON

It was a cold, gray, Saturday, April 8th, but the volunteers of the Rhodes Chapter of Habitat for Humanity would not be discouraged from their spring project at Mrs. Oreetha McMilin's home on Dickinson Street. Mrs. McMilin has lived in her home for ten years. Her clapboard 1920's cottage is in need of scraping and painting. Mrs. McMilin qualified for assistance from Habitat For Humanity. She had expressed her need for assistance during the VECA survey (see article this issue) and was linked with Habitat through VECA. Volunteers on Saturday included Steve Hipp, Steve Gabois, Gary Lindquest, Mike Kirby, Kim Medland, Sandy Sullivan, Marion Sorrells, Liz Ducker, and Degon Taylor. This energetic group of Rhodes' students and VECA community members worked from 9:00 a.m. till late in the afternoon. The group plans to return Saturday April

15th to finish their project. Neighbors Tom and Helen Sehrodt of 673 Dickinson provided lunch for the volunteers.

Habitat For Humanity is a national not-for-profit organization founded in Americus, Georgia in the late 1970's as an outgrowth ministry of Koinonia Partners, an interfaith, interracial religious community. The Memphis Chapter was chartered in 1983. The Rhodes chapter was chartered in 1988. The purpose of the organization is to help rehabilitate or build homes for families who otherwise would not qualify for traditional loans or assistance. Last year the Rhodes chapter built a home in the Save The Children area and sold it to a family through the Habitat low interest loan program.

Mrs. McMilin stated she appreciated the work being done by the volunteers. Mrs. McMilin was working along-side the volunteers helping to clear the yard. The Center for Neighborhoods and City of Memphis Sanitation department delivered the dial-a-truck used to haul away the trash. This project is an example of how our neighborhood working together can make a difference where we live.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Bi-monthly Meeting

The regular meeting of VECA was held March 13th at Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian church. The Program was presented by Mary Anne Johnson from MIFA's Emergency Homes for Families. Mrs. Johnson spoke to the group about the program and how it has worked with communities in providing help for families in temporary crisis. MIFA has several homes that have been donated or purchased through special funds where MIFA is able to help families. These are used as temporary shelter until the family is able to stabilize and move into more permanent housing. This Program often helps the recently unemployed, families who have lost their homes to fire, families where illness has caused a financial set back, and other emergencies that have lead to a loss of home. This program is not designed for the chronically homeless.

Rather, it is intended as a preventive measure for chronic homelessness and works with families that have a level of stability. Often working closely with communities where the homes are located, MIFA feels a tie to neighborhood associations such as VECA to help this Program survive. The program was informative to the VECA members in illustrating the limited resources Memphis has for the homeless and what a good job MIFA is doing.

Housing Committee

The property at 1914 Jackson, which was mentioned in the last issue as having been cited for several code violations, has undergone some cleanup. The yard and home have had some work done, but there have not solved the code violations. The abandoned swimming pool is almost completely dismantled, though a hole in the lawn is collecting stagnant water. The fine assessed in court actions has not been paid, since the owner has until July to make payment. And the structural violations have not been addressed. The report on the survey conducted March 11th by the Housing Committee is described in the article "Census of the Restoration Area".

Zoning Committee

The owner of the property at 930 Watkins did not appeal the decision to deny a zone variance on the existing residence for the purpose of establishing a business. The recording studio has since moved to Madison in a designated business area. If you have any questions regarding zoning in your area please call the VECA 276-1066 number or the Mayors Action Center.

Membership Committee

The membership committee did a mass mailing to its Lifetime members. The new VECA brochure was distributed with a letter requesting the lifetime members to share the information with new neighbors. The old lifetime membership dues of ten dollars is placing a strain on the finances of the association. ANY LIFETIME MEMBER who would like to renew at the new rate \$7.50 annually would be greatly appreciated. If you need brochures for meetings, new neighbors, your business, whatever let us know. We do have brochures for distribution. Members of VECA will be at the Neighborhood Fest April 22 on Mud Island.

Railroad Right Of Way Committee

This committee has met several times with Good Shepherd Episcopal Church to discuss options for the "railway" property which backs up to the church and several neighborhood residences. A letter from the City Attorney's Office restates what the community was told several years ago. There is no clear title to the property, therefore no clear action can be taken.

This does not help area folks who have security, safety, and property value concerns. Options have been discussed and some recommendations will be made at the next meeting. Call Sally Dewing or the VECA number for the next meeting date.

Veca Phone

Because residents do not know who to call when there are problems in the neighborhood, VECA has installed a phone. VECA CAN BE REACHED AT 276-1066. If you have any problem or need information call this number and a VECA officer will call back as soon as the message is received.

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

*University Park
Cleaners*

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613 N. McLEAN

SUMMER NIGHT STUDIES

Evergreen Presbyterian Church will host Summer Night Studies in June, 1989. The program will begin on June 18 and continue for five nights this year. Either a potluck supper or a catered supper will be served before each class.

Watch for brochures on the programs soon!

**Is There An Answer To The Problems Of
GUILT, LONELINESS, AND
DISCOURAGEMENT?**

Hear These Topics Addressed By
Mr. Larry Moyer of Dallas, Texas
May 21, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. - May 22-24, 7 p.m.

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH
1792 N. Parkway 278-4311
Nursery Provided

DEALING WITH SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

By Julie Borys

The Vollintine-Evergreen community is a large one, encompassing three school districts: Snowden Elementary and Jr. High, Cypress Jr. High and Vollentine Elementary. At present we have more VECA members living in the Snowden district, and we tend to focus on its accomplishments. Thus, it may surprise many to find that parents from other communities in

Memphis are standing in line for transfers into Vollentine.

Until 1984 Snowden and Vollentine Elementary Schools were paired under Integration Plan Z. Grades K-3 were assigned to Vollentine and 4-6 to Snowden. Before these schools became optional, they, like other public schools at that time, were steadily losing white students. When Snowden was designated optional, it became attractive to area students who had been attending private or other optional schools. It attracted many Vollentine students to its Enriched Academic Program (today Snowden has 1,468 students; 358 students come from 73 different schools' attendance zones including 21 from Vollentine).

But do not weep for Vollentine. It has no shortage of students. Vollentine has always had a reputation for solid test scores, steady discipline, and focus on the fundamentals. In 1984 it became an optional school with an Individually Guided Instruction Program, the program in such demand at Idlewild Elementary.

Mrs. Bertharene Young, an administrator with great experience in the implementation of the IGE curriculum, was the principal for the next three years, enhancing the school's reputation. Vollentine also can boast of a core of teachers who have many years of experience in this community. Despite the overcrowding, they and the new principal, Mrs. Nettye Hassan, are doing a wonderful job. When an optional school is overcrowded, it cannot grant many transfers. This year only 52 new students could be accepted.

The VE community is, in general, aging; having fewer children and having them later in life. So why is Vollentine so overcrowded? When the census is conducted this next year, how many school age children will it show living in the Vollentine district? How many children who live in other districts are attending Vollentine? How many of those have legal transfers?

Driving through the neighborhood before school begins, elementary students can be seen walking in from other districts. Working mothers from other communities drop their children at friends' or relatives' homes. When students are habitually late, teachers sometimes discover they have been coming from some great distance to attend this neighborhood school. When parents cannot get optional transfers, they give a false address to qualify their child for Vollentine. This gives the impression that there are more children in this district than is truly the case.

Vollentine has been "on the list" for improvements and expansion for as long as anyone can remember. However urgent, expansion will probably not be considered as long as there is empty space at

Klondyke. The BOARD traditionally handles overcrowding by redistricting. It has already made the decision to assign the three streets on the western border of the VE community to Klondyke school. If the BOARD makes no serious attempt to verify addresses, does not support teachers and principals when they discover residence fraud, and does not correct the problems in other North Memphis schools which have caused parents to prefer Vollentine over their neighborhood schools, overcrowding will not be reduced! Redistricting Snowden and Cypress Jr. High Schools did not solve their crowding/vacancy problems.

Schools are one of the first "communities" a child experiences. The neighborhood school is usually the most identifiable aspect of any community. Vollentine is obviously an asset and untapped resource. We have a desirable school which can attract buyers to this neighborhood. We should do all we can to promote the neighborhood and the school as a unit. To successfully market housing in the Vollentine district, we must have assurances that the district boundaries will be stable. We need assurances from the BOARD that it will uphold its residence policy, and that re-assigned students will be returned to Vollentine if the census shows that the school age population does not exceed the capacity of the school.

BOARD members for the Vollentine District are the Rev. Hubon Sandridge and Mr. J. C. Williams. Let them know how you feel about inequitable enforcement of the residence requirements. The address of the Board of Education is 2597 Avery Avenue, 38112.

OPEN AGAIN

Carl's Bakery has reopened with all the goodies you remember:

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PLANT THE TOWN RED!

"Spring has sprung" in all its glory. What better way is there to show community spirit and pride in Memphis than by "Planting VECA Red" in keeping with the City Beautiful Commission's campaign. Red plants attract hummingbirds and work well in combination with other colors. Here is a list of some tough perennials, trees, and shrubs.



	FLOWER	FRUIT	FOLIAGE	FALL COLOR		FLOWER	FRUIT	FOLIAGE	FALL COLOR
TREES					SHRUBS (cont.)				
JAPANESE RED MAPLE — many cultivars	*	*	*	*	SPIREA	*			
RED BUCKEYE	*				VERGELIA	*			
CRISTE WHITE — many NEW cultivars	*	*	*	*	RED CHERRY BERRY	*	*	*	*
PURPLE LEAF PLUM	*		*	*	VIRGINIA SWEETSPICE	*	*	*	*
CRIMSON KING MAPLE	*		*	*	SAUCON HOLY	*	*	*	*
AMERICAN RED MAPLE — many NEW cultivars	*	*	*	*	PHOTINA	*	*	*	*
EVER BARK TREE	*		*	*	SUMAC	*	*	*	*
RED BUD	*		*	*					
AMERICAN DOGWOOD	*	*	*	*	PERENNIALS				
CHINESE DOGWOOD	*	*	*	*	PEONY	*	*	*	*
NUTTAL OAK	*	*	*	*	BLEEDING HEART	*	*	*	*
SOURWOOD	*	*	*	*	JAPANESE BLOOD GRASS	*	*	*	*
BLACKGUM	*	*	*	*	COLUMBINE	*	*	*	*
AMERICAN SMOKE TREE	*	*	*	*	RED MOUNTAIN GRASS	*	*	*	*
DECIDUOUS HOLY	*	*	*	*	AUTUMN JOY SEDUM	*	*	*	*
					CARDINAL FLOWER	*	*	*	*
SHRUBS					ASTILBE	*	*	*	*
FLORIDA ANISE	*	*	*	*	RED RIVER MALLOWS	*	*	*	*
FLANDRIA — many cultivars	*	*	*	*	TURK'S CAP	*	*	*	*
CRIMSON BARBERRY	*	*	*	*	DAY LILY	*	*	*	*
P. JACQUELINE AZALEA	*	*	*	*	BEE BALM	*	*	*	*
RED EVERGREEN AZALEAS — many cultivars	*	*	*	*	PHLOX	*	*	*	*
RED RIVER MALLOWS	*	*	*	*	CREeping PHLOX	*	*	*	*
BURNING BUSH	*	*	*	*	YARROW	*	*	*	*

This information was provided by TREES BY TOULIATOS, 2018 E. Brooks Rd., 346-8065. They will be happy to give more specific information and will be giving us timely information or articles.

CENSUS OF THE RESTORATION AREA

By Mike Kirby

Members of the VECA housing Committee rolled out of bed Saturday, March 11, a beautiful, sunny day, to do the census of the restoration area between Tutwiler and Jackson. The group covered households on Dickson, Avalon, Tutwiler and Jackson. Census workers included Bill Powell, Martha Heinemann, Tim Mashburn, Steve Gadbois, Chuck Dille, Bill Bullock, Julie Borys, Lydia Henegar, Mike Kirby, Sally Dewing, Chuck Fox, Jon Perry, Lucy Cooper, Virginia Nisbet, and Eliza Elder.

Initially perceived as a tedious task, the census turned into excitement as VECA residents of the area welcomed VECA members into their homes to discuss their neighborhood streets.

The procedure for the census was complex. The census taker made initial notes on any house that might require some work, based on an exterior examination. The census taker also was given the name of the owner and resident of each house. This information was verified. The interviewer then asked a series of questions about views of the neighborhood, problems in the neighborhood, and background information.

The census surveyed 164 properties in the area. In addition, 82 persons compiled questionnaires yielding an excellent 50% completion rate. Most of those uncompleted questionnaires were households with no one at home. What did we learn?

*There is enormous good will toward VECA in the area and a genuine interest in obtaining help in dealing with the few problem properties in the area.

*The combination of the property analysis sheets and interviews led us to identify problem properties which need VECA's immediate action.

*There are many potential VECA members in the area who should send in their memberships since they share the goals and concerns upon which VECA is based.

*There were caring neighbors of all types: young and old, renter and homeowner, black and white, middle class and working class.

The residents in the area have identified 8 properties that are of great concern and are often violators of the city's housing code. These houses have been made a VECA priority. It will not be easy to correct these problems since recalcitrant owners do not normally respond to their moral and legal obligations to keep their houses in good repair. However, VECA has made a commitment to use its resources to solve these problems.

VECA has either directly contacted these owners, or it has placed formal complaints with the city. One of the owners immediately agreed to make the repairs. A new owner at Jackson and Maury has assured VECA that we can expect rehabilitation of the vacant property in the near future. Others are now in the discussion stage. There will be a report in the next issue of the Evergreen News on the owners who do not respond by that time.

A continuation of the census on March 18 was rained out and rescheduled for April 22. Subsequent issues of the Evergreen News will discuss some of the survey results from the census.

BUSINESSES IN BUSINESS FOR THE COMMUNITY

By Mike Kirby

Interstate Realty

We would like to welcome Interstate Realty to the neighborhood. Interstate is located at 1680 Jackson in the building formerly housing the Seven to Eleven Store. Interstate is owned by Charles Hunt and is involved in the sale of houses, rental of commercial real estate throughout the city, and homeowners' insurance to VECA residents.

The Census showed there was concern about trash and litter on Jackson which is dropped by passing cars.

Interstate Realty has generously volunteered to employ a neighborhood youth to pick up the litter on a bi-weekly basis.

We are pleased that our new neighbor, Interstate Realty, has joined our efforts in neighborhood preservation.

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St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Community Jackson at Belvedere

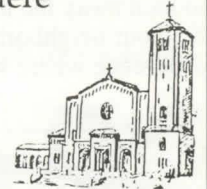
Sunday Eucharists

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

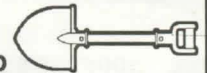


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To join, call Julie Borys, 272-2672



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