

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 4, July 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.

about problem houses in the restoration area. Hopefully, VECA and Housing Improvement can work effectively to eliminate these problems. Bungard indicated that one of the problem owners on Dickinson has been cited. VECA was pressing for a citation on a second house.

Annual VECA Dues

\$7.50

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

Steve Shular of the Mayor's Action Center will be joining members of the Housing Committee to visually inspect the remaining streets in the restoration area which includes Tutwiler, Snowden, and Lyndale between Stonewall and Watkins.

BIMONTHLY MEETING

The VECA meeting was held May 3rd at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Herbert Van Tol of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center presented a program on the Shelby County Community Reinvestment Coalition. The Coalition formed in 1985 to monitor the loan practices of area banks. The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 is the law which the Coalition uses to work with Memphis banks. The Coalition holds regular meetings with the banks and the Coalition membership. The main function of the organization is to insure all areas of the city are accorded the same loan opportunities. One of the keys to maintaining or rehabilitating a community is available dollars for physical improvement of properties. If you have questions about a banks loan history in a particular area or want more information about the coalition call 452-6997.

The Housing Committee has been following the developments on the property at 1912 Jackson. There have been only minimal improvements on the property. In the meantime there has been a steady stream of complaints to the city, including several complaints by the VECA Housing Committee. The Committee was shocked to find that the owner has been given until July to pay the fine that was assessed in the fall.

Harper Brewer, a VECA resident, has a ninety day option to buy the property at 1912 Jackson. There was no more information at the time of the Evergreen News going to press.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Housing Committee continues its work on the restoration area. Additional surveys were done on Willett, Stonewall, Jackson and Faxon. Several properties have been identified as problems and have been submitted to the city for code enforcement action.

A compliment is due to Gary Kirk and his staff at the Department of Housing Improvement. Housing Inspector Henry Bungard contacted VECA and offered assistance after reading in the Evergreen News

Don't Miss It! ANNUAL VECA PICNIC

**Rhodes Pool
6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.
Saturday, July 15**

Our annual party is a great way to enjoy being together with our children, finding friends, and sharing our community.

**Bring your favorite side dish to share.
Beer Allowed
Hotdogs and Hamburgers available and
soft drinks available for .50.**

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

**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"

**VECA HOTLINE
276-1066**

VECA now has its own phone. Residents are encouraged to call 276-1066 if they have any complaints or questions. Call the hotline if there are changes in zoning being proposed or a deteriorating house is affecting the neighborhood. In addition, information will be provided on VECA events. For example if a public meeting is scheduled, the phone line may announce time changes, rain days and special problems.



NEIGHBORS, LET'S USE THE VECA HOTLINE:
276-1066

Please call these professionals
for your Real Estate needs:



DAVIES • SOWELL, INC.
R • E • A • L • T • O • R • S

Larry Alexander	323-1144
Corrine Adrian	278-8840
Jean Bradfute	272-2668
Libby Carr	272-7368

54 SOUTH COOPER MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104
(901) 278-4380

Evergreen Presbyterian Playschool
"Learning Through Play"

Ages 6 months - 4 years
Registration open now for Fall '89 Sessions
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
613 University 274-374

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee met with VECA residents on Watkins, Garland, McNeil, and Stonewall north of

Jackson regarding a decision by the Board of Education to redistrict the Vollentine school district. See article "Removing Neighborhood Children".

Ashfords Mid-Town Meats
(formerly Townsend's)

643 N. McLean 276-1636
Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

8 oz. Filet Mignon - 2.75 each

REMOVING NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN

The Board proposed redrawing district lines to make room for optional transfers in an "overcrowded" school. This school was Vollentine Optional. By Shifting our VECA students to an "underused" school, Klondyke without exploring the reason for overcrowding and under use, our community was losing one of its best assets, Vollentine school. In many cases people have moved into our area seeking good schools and a solid neighborhood. Such actions as the Board's would do harm to our community's integrity.

On April 21st the Board notified 175 students that they would be transferred to Klondyke. Changing the Vollentine school district without consulting either the parents directly affected or VECA, was a disregard for the effects of such changes on the community. VECA is a friend of the court in the standing desegregation plan and should be consulted when any school redistricting is proposed for our community. If the Board had consulted with the community and its association (VECA) in preparing its plan, we could have familiarized them with long-standing abuses of the residence requirement policy that has caused an exodus from Cypress and Klondyke and an apparent overcrowding at Vollentine and Snowden. The timing of the transfers and change in district lines was after the deadline for these children to apply for an opening in an Optional school. The School policy on Optional schools in regards to enrollment is not clear. At some Optional schools children have been told that once they are in the Optional program they may remain in that program as long they are age appropriate for the program. This applies even if they move out of the Optional school district. This rule was not being applied to 175 students who were to be transferred from Vollentine.

On June 2nd community residents Peggy Bently, Janice Cannon, and Julie Borys, VECA president, met

with Rev. Hubon Sandridge and Dr. J.C. Williams of the Board and Dr. Johnny Watson of school administration to discuss the planned redistricting. Larry McLellan of Center for Neighborhoods attended the meeting in support of the VECA community. At the meeting the board members and school administration agreed to delay the district change for one year and to meet with area residents and school administrators to come up with a plan that would address the issue of overcrowding and keep the interests of the community in mind.

The School Board met June 5th and reviewed and approved the proposed one year delay and formation of the study group. The School Board also committed to the building of six new classrooms at Vollentine. If you have questions or would like to work with the education Committee, call Julie at 272-2672.

**LAWN CARE &
LANDSCAPING**

**Trees Trimmed
Gardens Tilled & Sod**

Les Burchfield 272-2134

SHAME! SHAME!

on the VECA resident seen placing trash on the MLGW right of way at McLean and Crump. City Sanitation picked up the discarded waste by he next day as they are very conscientious. However, a call by the offending resident to DIAL-A-TRUCK, 576-6508 would have brought a city dump truck to your door for the whole weekend. You would not have had to cart your trash so far, and you would have spared the VECA community the embarrassment. DIAL-A-TRUCK is a city service available to all private home owners or neighborhoods who want to do major clean up. Just call 576-6508.

**MOVEMENT FOR ALL AGES
at Evergreen Presbyterian**

Everyone must move. Movement is life-giving, but it must be safe while it is helpful. Physical fitness is a matter of self management for all ages. Body Recall is an exercise class especially designed for senior citizens. It is designed to reclaim a variety of move-

ment and strength that help make living pleasurable. The exercises are very slow and controlled so that it will not produce pain, strain, exhaustion or injury.

Exercises are done from a sitting position in a chair and then progress to standing and the floor work. All the exercises concentrate to tone and increase flexibility. It deals with achieving daily activities of stair climbing, getting up and down from the floor as well as achieving proper posture techniques.

Body Recall provides for the social as well as the physical living skills. New friends and neighbors meet within the community and enjoy the time together. The class at Evergreen Presbyterian Church is sponsored by the YMCA and is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The fee is minimum at \$1.10 per session. For more information please contact the Davis Y at 398-2366.

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"

**CITY GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING
COMPLAINTS
By Mike Kirby**

If your neighbor is not maintaining his home and it has implications for your entire neighborhood, there is a legal mechanism which you can use to obtain city action. It is called the city code, and it starts with a call to the Mayor's Action Center.

As an informed city resident, you can use this mechanism to protect your street and neighborhood from careless owners and residents.

This issue of the Evergreen News will begin a series of articles which describe the code and how to use it effectively. This issue will discuss how a complaint can be filed.

The Mayor's Action Center is the beginning point of any complaint. When it receives a complaint, the Mayor's Action Center sends a computerized form to one of the city or county agencies which is respon-

sible for the area. For example, a housing problem goes to the Department of Housing Improvement, a high weeds complaint goes to the City Beautiful Commission or the Health Department, and a hole in the street goes to Public Works. Once the agency responds to the complaint, it tells the Mayor's Action Center what has been accomplished. That information is then communicated back to the resident who originally complained.

The problem with this system is that the individual agencies receive thousands of complaints, and they may not be impressed with the need to satisfy each one. Further, the Mayor's Action Center cannot individually verify the information. If it is told by an agency that a complaint is closed, i.e. the problem solved, that information is forwarded to the citizen, whether the problem has been alleviated or not.

In order for this system to work effectively for you, the VECA neighbor, IT IS NECESSARY TO BE EXCEEDINGLY PERSISTENT. Weekly calls should be made to the Mayor's Action Center asking about the status of the complaint. Be polite. DO NOT ASSUME THE COMPLAINT WILL BE HANDLED TO YOUR SATISFACTION. If the problem is not solved, the Mayor's Action Center should be given the information so they can communicate with the agency in a more informed way.

The phone number of the Mayor's Action Center is 576-6500. The director is Steve Shular, a tireless worker, who has helped VECA on many occasions in solving housing problems. If the Mayor's Action Center cannot help solve the problem, call VECA at 276-1066.

OPEN AGAIN

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

- Cookies • Donuts • Sweet Rolls • Cakes • Pies • Danishes
- More breads than ever, including rye and pumpernickel. Rolls. Buns. Everything "from scratch."

Carl's BAKERY

1690 Jackson Ave. at Evergreen 276-2304
Open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday thru Friday

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

The best landscape is doomed to fail if its plants are not properly maintained. Maintenance involves

CORRECT watering and weeding. Keys to being a good waterer

Most plants die from incorrect watering. As a general rule, trees and shrubs need one inch of water per week throughout the growing season. Overwatering will kill a plant as quickly as underwatering. When you do water, make sure you water thoroughly and deeply. Plants do not care if water comes as rain or irrigation water. Evergreens may need water during a dry and windy day.

Stick your finger into the soil. Water if it feels dry. Do not water if it feels moist or wet. A moisture meter is not a substitute for your finger, and no mechanical device is superior to a human's sensitivity to nature.

Water slowly to insure that water soaks deep into the ground (2 to 8 inches). One long and thorough watering is superior to multiple brief watering. Deep watering leads to deep rooting which makes plants more cold and drought tolerant.

Keys to weeding

Any plant growing in a location where you do not want it is a weed. All newly planted beds have some weeds. This is normal and to be expected. There are several ways to control weeds. Pulling them by hand is the most popular, the most labor intensive, and the least successful. Pre-emergents or seed killers kill the weed prior to emerging as a green and growing plant. Non-selective herbicides kill whatever they are sprayed onto. Selective herbicides kill some plants while doing nothing to others. The best weed control is a combination of all of the above approaches.

Apply pre-emergents to shrub beds every 3-5 months for the first year and once yearly (early in March) every year thereafter. (Eptam, Treflan, Dachhal, Rout, etc.)

Spot spray just the weeds with a non-selective herbicide one time per month during the growing season. This should take just a few minutes and is best done with a Windex-like hand-held squirt bottle. A 3x3 sheet of cardboard can serve as a shield to guard against spraying any chemical on a desirable plant. (Roundup, Cleanup, Kilzall, etc.)

Grasses in beds of monkey grass and other ground covers or shrub beds are easily controlled with selective herbicides. (Poast, fusilad, etc.)

Finally, if any weed or grass is still alive then it should be hand weeded and thrown away.

Provided by Trees by Touliatos, 346-8065

Bosi & Son's Grocery & Catering



We Deliver

1701 Jackson
274-4729

Choice Aged Meats

ALL RIGHT PLUMBING PARTS

Since Craftsman Plumbing moved from the VECA area, there has not been a full services store that could provide replacement plumbing parts. That void has now been filled with the arrival of All Right Plumbing at 1342 Overton Park Avenue near Cleveland. All Right is a full service plumbing parts store which has faucet parts, sinks, tubs, disposals, and a variety of tools. Best of all, the owner and clerks are friendly to novices who are doing their own plumbing. Prices are reasonable, and the store is well stocked with a variety of parts.

HELP FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON DICKINSON

These photos did not make the last edition of the Evergreen News so we are including them in this issue. THANKS GANG! for a job well done!



"WHERE ITALY COMES TO YOUR TABLE"



Giovanni

Authentic Italian cookery includes Bistecca Bracciale, Polla alla Potentina, Scampi, Trota alla Livornese, Lobster Tail served on a bed of Imported Fettuccine, Salmone en Filet, Stuccine Portofino, Salmone Prima Vera, Trota alla Fiorenza, 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.

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

Vollentine Food Market



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

Fresh Meat and Produce
We deliver to VECA area

AS I SEE IT By Jennifer A. Jenson

Newcomers to the VECA area often manifest a special type of excitement as they move into the area. All of these new buyers see in their home is potential. We are often blinded by our renovating so that we no longer see the character and potential around us. It is good to be around the new VECA residents to reacquaint ourselves with the potential and beautiful architectural amenities our area and our homes have. The benefits of the older homes seem to be numerous. While a great number of Shelby County residents move further and further east, certain ones of us located near the center of town. We see there is some great hidden virtue in living in a house with character, even if we have to renovate round-the-clock to find it. One discovers unknown, untold happiness in affordable housing with a history. There is a long-range, family-related enjoyment in living in a beautiful home in a neighborhood with older trees, community shops and businesses, and genuinely friendly, community-minded people.

Volunteer

Return to VECA at 1663 Tutwiler
Memphis, TN 38107

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Reporter Evergreen News _____

Deliver Evergreen News _____

Membership _____ Business Committee _____

Phone _____ Housing Committee _____

Mid-South Organic Network MIDSON

A volunteer educational Association promoting organic gardening and sustainable agriculture in the Mid-South community.

Located in Overton Park, the Zoo encompasses 36 acres and houses more than 4000 animals. The MIDSON demonstration garden is next to the contact area. This organic garden highlights the essence of sustainable agriculture - zoo animal wastes are composted and used to enrich the soil.

For more information contact:
Memphis Zoo & Aquarium
2000 Galloway St. Memphis TN 38112
(901) 726-4775

MEMPHIS ANIMAL SHELTER
3456 Tchulahoma Memphis, TN 38118
(901) 362-5310

For low-cost spay or neuter for your pet call:
Memphis Humane Society 272-1753
Animal Protection Association 324-7729

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