

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 6, November 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.

VECA FLOODING PROBLEMS

Many homes in the VECA area are frequently flooded. This condition is caused by water and/or sewage backing up in the city lines. Not only is this problem a serious health hazard, it also causes expensive damage to our personal property.

The first step in correcting the problem is to meet as a group to determine the extent of our dilemma and take action. Please call 272-6648 and leave your name and phone number. Jay Shelden, chairperson for the Committee on Flooding, will contact you about the initial meeting.

LETTER FROM VECA PRESIDENT JULIE BORYS

Vollintine-Evergreen continues to face challenges to our residential zoning that will require the support of all residents. VECA is often invited to comment on rezoning proposals by the office of Planning and Development. OPD is knowledgeable about the VE community and has been very supportive of preserving existing residential use. But the OPD is an advisory board whose findings can be discounted by the Land Use Control Board, the City Council or the Board of Adjustments. All these bodies handle zoning issues.

The people on these boards and councils may not know the history of this community. They may do no more than drive by the day before a hearing and make a windshield survey of our neighborhood. Then they will make decisions that have immediate impact and long range implications for the entire neighborhood based on the houses they see in route to and around the proposed re-zoning site.

If someone drove down your street today trying to decide who cares whether someone places a business

in an existing home or razes homes or institutions to build a shopping center, a convenience store, a liquor store or amusement center, what would your house and yard say about your neighborhood? Does it look like you care? Does it look like anyone cares?

There is no one in this neighborhood rich enough to throw away the investment that their home represents. Yet every day uncaring people do just that, when they refuse to improve or maintain their property. Every day people with good intentions make time for all the important things in their lives except the one that may go farthest toward preserving the principles upon which this community was founded.

Everyone wants to live in a nice community. It was a struggle to create this one. We have to combat social and economic prejudice and plain unvarnished greed. Other communities look to this one to hold the lamp high, take the long view, do what is morally right, not just what is convenient or in our narrow self-interest. Pride and caring are possible no matter what. People are more alike than they are different. No more excuses. Get out there and clean the yard, mow the grass, rake the leaves, paint the wood before it rots, edge the lawn (the true mark of dignity). If you are physically unable to do these things do not be afraid to ask your neighbors for help. They may be too shy to volunteer. (Neighbors, do not be so shy!) If you are living at an intersection or along a major street, everyone driving by your property judges this neighborhood by your home. What are you saying? Keep it neat, keep it clean, keep it simple.

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

I have recently been privileged to participate in the Neighborhood Leadership Training program sponsored by MLGW, MSU, and MIFA's Center for Neighborhoods. It is standard operating procedure in these sort of things to consider your organization's strengths and weaknesses, set goals, prioritize them, and develop strategies for accomplishing them.

My goal for VECA is 1000 paid VECA members and

100 active working members. There are two reasons for maintaining such a largemembership. The first and most important reason is VECA would be an unquestionably representative association, able to speak not only with conviction for, but also confirmation from the people it represents. Second, our current membership budget is just enough to print the EVER-GREEN NEWS. There is little left over for special projects like painting an elderly neighbor's home. There is nothing left over for rehabilitating a derelict house, hiring lawyers and technical assistance for zoning challenges, nothing to sponsor home-owner skills training programs or create advertising and public relation's campaigns to market this wonderful neighborhood. We now likely have 1000 people who consider themselves members of VECA. The problem is, that they have not paid their dues in two, three, or four years, if ever. We can do most of VECA's work with people power, but when we appear before the City Council, the Board of Adjustment, or the Land Use Control Board, their favorite question is "How many of you are dues paying members?" The next time around I want to be able to say, "All of us!"

The 1990 membership drive begins November 1. Please take time to fill out and mail your membership card. Make sure the neighbor on either side of you does too. We all need a little push from time to time.

**FOUND
Ladies bracelet inscribed with "Dinkey"**

A neighbor in VECA, who gardens and gathers bags of leaves, collected bags from Lyndale, Minor and Tutwiler last fall '88. This fall '89 when he went to empty one of the bags the bracelet was found. Please call 274-0762.

VECA HOLIDAY RECIPES

In response to our request for your favorite holiday recipe we received the following responses. Thank you!!!!!! Happy Holiday Eating!!!!!!

**PRALINE COOKIES
Debrah Cole**

2 sticks margarine (butter is better)
1 cup light brown sugar
1 cup chopped nuts
20-24 graham crackers
Melt margarine and add brown sugar. Bring to a boil for two minutes, stirring constantly. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cool mixture. When the mixture stops bubbling, add nuts. Pour the



nut and sugar mixture over crushed graham crackers, baking exactly 10 minutes.

**APRICOT ALMOND BAR COOKIES
Dottie Sachritz on Sheridan**

DOUGH
Combine: 3/4 cup + 2 tablespoons unsifted flour with 1/4 cup finely ground blanched almonds. Beat together: 7 tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 egg (lightly beat before dividing) and 1/2 teaspoon almond extract. Fold in soft flour mixture. Divide in 1/2. Wrap each 1/2 portion in plastic wrap and chill 2 hours.

FILLING
1/2 cup chopped, dried apricots, 1/2 cup water, 1/2 cup sugar. Boil apricots in water, cover 15 minutes, and let stand 30 minutes. If water remains, heat gently to evaporate the excess fluid. Stir in the sugar. Cool completely. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter 8x8 pan. Line with wax paper. Roll 1/2 the dough into the pan. Spread the filling 1/4 from edges. Place remainder of dough on top of the filling. Press to seal the edges. Bake 45-50 minutes until golden and firm to the touch. Cool in the pan, on a rack. Turn the cookies out of the pan and invert, sprinkling with confectioners sugar. Cut into approximately 25, 1/2" squares.

**CANDY CANE COOKIES
Corine Elliot on Avalon**

These cookies were a family tradition when I was young. My mother and I would make them for the holidays. Noe, my mother, sends them to my children every Christmas. For thirty years the candy cane cookies have been a holiday treat in my family.

Ingredients
1 cup soft shortening
1 cup sifted confectioners sugar
1 egg
1 1/2 teaspoon almond flavoring
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon red food coloring
1/2 cup crushed peppermint candy.



Cream shorting and confectioners sugar. Add egg and flavorings. Add dry ingredients (flour and salt). Divide dough into 2 equal parts. Add red food coloring to 1/2 the dough. To make cookies- pinch a piece of white and red dough, rolling each into "snakes". Twist pieces together forming a candy cane shape. Fill a cookie sheet with cookies. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. While the cookies are warm, sprinkle with a mixture of 1/2 cup crushed peppermint and 1/2 cup granulated sugar. **HOW MANY CANES YOU GET, DEPENDS ON THE SIZE YOU MAKE THEM.**

VECA NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

This article is the first of several that will offer our readers an overview and some reflections on the history and atmosphere of our community. The VECA area has always included a broad mix of people, reflecting varied ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, and employment histories. The different elements have tended to join the neighborhood into a

diverse community that has respected and appreciated differences while reinforcing and supporting our community. An older neighborhood with many senior citizens who have been here for many years, the Vol-lentine-Evergreen community is attracting many younger families and individuals who appreciate the character and the quality of life here.

A history of the community was published in 1980. The history's description of the neighborhood continues to be an accurate characterization. Economically, most residents could be described as middle and upper income, though there are low income pockets in the area. A majority of residents have worked in academic, professional, clerical, or government positions. The educational level is high--in the 1970's, 10% of the area's residents were college graduates.

VECA has always taken pride in its ethnicity. Middle Eastern European countries have been highly represented with a large segment of Catholic and Jewish families. Proximity to the medical center attracts physicians and other medical-related professionals. VECA's nearness to Rhodes and the Memphis College of Art contributes to our large number of artists, writers, scholars, and musicians. As someone once said, "the people who live here have not become homogenized."

The neighborhood is one of quiet streets and attractive homes. Some date back to 1907. Most of the houses were built between 1925 and 1950. Future articles will review the history of our area from the early origins of Memphis.

THE SHERIDAN STREET NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PICNIC

by Judy Benedict

The Sheridan Neighborhood Watch Picnic took place August 13th. About 60 residents took part. Many thanks to Elder Eddy Robinson, without whom this event would not have taken place. Captain Golden of the M.P.D made a short speech on behalf of VECA. Officer Acred gave a short talk on the neighborhood watch program. Kay Pittman of the City Beautiful Commission presented the award for the most beautiful yard. A short history of the street was given by some of the long time residents. A delicious catered meal put the finishing touch on a Sunday evening that was enjoyed by all who were present.

WINTERIZE YOUR OUTDOOR PLANTS

To best protect your trees and shrubs from the ravages of winter, care for them as follows:

1. Water evergreen and deciduous plants prior to our first freeze this fall.
2. Water evergreens any time the soil is dry and the temperature will be below 32 degrees F.
3. Mulch trees and shrubs with one inch, organic mulch (leaves, grass cuttings, pine needles, or commercial mulch).
4. Tender plants which are not native to the Memphis area can be covered by a sheet of plastic or bed linen. This material should be draped tent-fashion over the tender plant any time the temperature drops below 25 degrees F. and removed any time the temperature goes above 59 degrees F. Examples of these tender plants are: Raphiolepis, Pittosporum, Gardenia, and Loquat.

CHURCH BAZAAR by Margaret Johnson

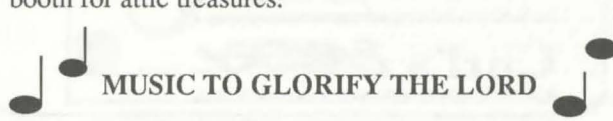


When the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd moved into a new building at 1971 Jackson Ave. in 1945, it brought with it a tradition of good bazaars held annually by The Women of the Church.

Formerly located at Fourth and Mill, Good Shepherd was and is the traditional Anglo-Catholic Church in which many of the early North Memphis Families worshipped.

After moving, the annual bazaar usually was held in the late Fall or near the Christmas holidays. It was a "must" in the community. Except for an occasional year during World War II, it has been an annual event since 1945. This year the bazaar was held on Saturday, November 11th, from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.. Piano Music was furnished by "Pee Wee Wamble" and Evelyn Mashmeyer.

Beautiful Christmas decorations were featured at the bazaar, along with hand-made articles, home baked goodies, and jelly and jams. There was a special booth for attic treasures.



October 1, 1989 was the first of hopefully many concerts presented at the St. Therese Little Flower Church. Over three hundred people were in attendance to hear the music. Featured artists were Chris Nemeck, Organist, James Hyter, soloist, and The Gary Beard Chorale with Gary Beard conducting. The concert was presented as a celebration of the Feast of St. Therese. It was a joy to see a community church reaching out to be a part of the total community. We hope that St. Therese will be able to establish a tradition of artistic performances as part of their church.

VECA HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT City Scores Victory In Court

Vincent Principi, the resident of 760 Dickinson, was fined \$535 in City court, and Janice Rothschild, the owner of 674 Dickinson, was fined \$935 for violations of the city housing code.

The City of Memphis Department of Housing Improvement brought the cases to court after many unsuccessful efforts to require the two parties to fix up their properties.

Principi was cited for an accumulation of debris on the property, rotting wood on the exterior, and severe peeling of paint. Rothschild was cited for paint problems, exterior deterioration which included paint and rotting wood, and damage caused by roof problems. Housing inspectors were concerned about the vacant building's lack of security since it was not boarded up.

Residents of Dickinson recognize these two properties as eyesores on a block that has well kept houses which are architecturally impressive. The VECA housing committee had filed complaints on these properties, and had been working with the city to solve the problem.

Rothschild did not appear at her hearing. However, the city was able to present photographic evidence showing the property's severe deterioration.

The Principi hearing was characterized by a flamboyant attorney who berated the housing inspectors who testified. The attorney suggested the accumulation of debris and the paint problem were due to a recent fire. The attorney argued the charges were rigged, that the city was taking arbitrary action, and that there were no health and safety violations.

The responses of housing inspectors, Harry Bungard and Wallace Couch, were factual and included the presentation of numerous photographs. Couch pointed out an incident in which Principi refused to take the summons and had said he would not appear in court. Couch also pointed out that attempts had been made to have Principi's brother intercede with the Dickinson resident.

Judge Larry Potter, presiding as a fair and professional jurist allowed the defense to present all of its arguments at length and resisted most objections that would limit the evidence presented by either side. When the defense protested that Principi was not the owner, Judge Potter read from the law that the statute was equally applicable to tenants. Once the evidence was presented, Judge Potter quickly found the defendants guilty and set the fine. Principi has ten

days to appeal the fine. Both Principi and Rothschild are open to further court action if they do not clean up their properties. The city has the option of returning to city court, going to Chancery Court to obtain an order to fix up the property, or begin a process to demolish the two properties.

VECA is pleased that the Department of Housing Improvement worked so effectively to achieve the court decision. We hope that the two properties will be swiftly repaired without requiring further action.

Housing Committee Meeting

The housing committee welcomes new members to work on a variety of issues.

The housing committee will be meeting Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 AM, 840 Dickinson, Nazareth Hall. Call the VECA hotline if you would like to volunteer for the housing committee or would like further information: 276-1066.

The Committee discussed its work on the housing problems adjacent to Cypress School, a litter pickup patrol on Jackson, a mortgage for houses that need extensive rehabilitation, and a new strategy for dealing with the infamous Jackson/Barksdale house.

Membership

This issue of the Evergreen News will begin a practice of thanking new and renewing members of VECA. Members are important since they are the major source of funds for the dynamic activities of the organization. As the last issue of the Evergreen News suggested, the activities of VECA have outstripped our current funding. In order to continue our important work, we need financial support through these important memberships.

We welcome the following new members to VECA who joined the Association in August and September: Edward M. Bolton on N. Watkins, Saints Courts Apartments on Watkins, Dorothy M. Topps on Dickinson, Charlotte Lyles on University, Samuel Bates on Jackson, Robert and Judith Sohngen on Tutwiler, Garnette Sappington on Snowden, Gerald and Carol Risher on N. Auburndale, Karl Erdman and David Tester on Crump, and Janice L. Peterson on Jackson.

We also thank the continuing members who renewed during August and September: Carol and Lee Devens on McLean, Joe and Irene Dycus on University, Anne Famigletti on Avalon, Melanie La Rue on Mignon, Mike Ledtgerwood and Fayanne Thorngaton E. Rainbow Circle, Roland and Bernetta Nash on N.

Idlewild, Virginia Rice on North Parkway, Liz Wilson on Tutwiler, and Ed and Mary Beth Wingfield on Kensington.

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DEWINGS BELGIUM BOUND

by Kimberly Olsen

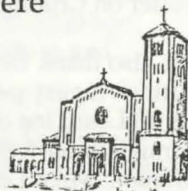
Sally Dewing, VECA vice-president, and her family have packed their belongings and are headed for Belgium. Tom Dewing has been appointed Head of European Affairs for Cummins Inc. in Brussels, Belgium. Sally has also taken a position with Cummins as marketing director. Their two children Chris, 17, and Betsy, 7, will both attend St. John's International School in Waterloo, Belgium, a small city outside Brussels. Chris is already in Belgium to attend school. As a twelfth year student, he is taking 9 courses, including French, Advanced Calculus, Advanced Biology and Physics. While a student at Central, Chris garnered many academic and athletic honors. Chris is living with a host family while Tom, Sally, and Betsy are in Cincinnati taking an intensive course in French.

All the Dewings were active in VECA and well known in the community. We wish them well on their journey. Good luck from your VECA family!

Editor's note: The Dewing's home at 1925 Jackson is for sale. Like many of the homes on this section of Jackson, it is elegant in scale and detail. Their agent is Heritage Homes, 767-2700.

**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 PICNIC
 by Julie Borys

First we were rained out, then we were frosted out, yet we managed to pig out at the VECA annual picnic, Saturday, September 27, at the Rhodes College Pool. Everyone huddled around the barbecue grills while Mary Wilder and Jan Kirby cooked the burgers and 'dogs that were hungrily consumed. Not even Steve Gadbois would have considered swimming that day but ice skating was mentioned.

VECA resident Charlotte Lyles and her fellow Davies-Sowell Agents, Bob Gilbert and Carol Pursell, were ready to distribute helium balloons to the kids and remained to help us eat hamburgers so we would not have to freeze those buns again.

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Margaret Dichtel award to Dr. Mike Kirby. Mike, alternately known as Mr. VECA and Mr. Persistent to the agencies charged with enforcing city ordinances, is a former president of VECA and the driving force behind our housing committee, the most active and effective committee of its kind in the city of Memphis. His personal commitment to VECA and his ability to generate commitment in others echoes the spirit of the late Margaret Dichtel, VECA's first president. Congratulations Mike!

Welcome to new member, Phyllis Randolph, who photographed the event and to new resident, Jan Peterson, whose family has bought Tom and Daney Kepple's home on Jackson.

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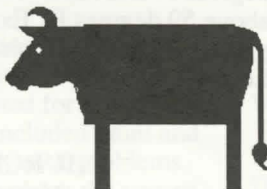


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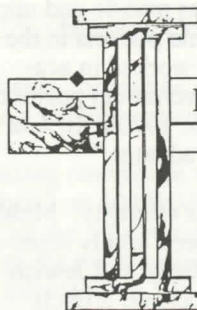
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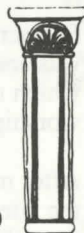
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VECA MEETING

Monday Evening, November 13
7:30

Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian
Church
1663 Tutwiler

Please make plans to attend!



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