

# The Evergreen News

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

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P.O. Box 12011

Memphis, TN 38182-0011

Volume XVI, Number 2, May 1990

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 P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN 38107.

## VECA

### General Membership Meeting

Monday, May 21, 1990

7:30 p.m.

Little Flower Church

Nazerath Hall

840 Dickinson

Discussion on crime and Neighborhood Watch (more details on page 4)



Rhodes College President, James H. Daughdrill, Jr. makes presentation to Grace Wallace.

### VECA NEIGHBOR HONORED

Grace Wallace our tireless neighborhood guardian against litter on our streets was awarded a special plaque from Rhodes College this February 1990. Grace Wallace can be seen almost every morning picking up trash along University. She does this as

part of her morning walk. Rhodes presented Grace with the plaque in the picture stating: With gratitude and high esteem, RHODES COLLEGE records its appreciation to Grace M. Wallace for her friendship and service to our campus community, to our neighborhood, and to our city. Presented this Twenty-first day of February, 1990, James H. Daughdrill, Jr. President.

### SNOWDEN RENOVATION

Plans are currently underway for a major renovation and addition at Snowden School. The firm of Nathan, Evans, Pounders and Taylor has been commissioned as architects for the project. Preliminary plans have been approved by the Board of Education.

The features of the proposed work include twelve new classrooms, a new cafeteria and new administrative offices. Additionally, there will be some interior renovation as well as new air conditioning and heating systems.

Parking and traffic movements on campus will be enhanced in order to promote the safest possible drop-off and pick-up of students.

Construction is expected to begin this summer. Work will be done in phases in order to allow school to function as normally as possible. Completion of the project is targeted for the 1991-92 school year.

### CHURCH MOVES INTO NEIGHBORHOOD .....AGAIN

By Deb Mashburn and Charli Phillips

In the late 1970's the members of the New Covenant Community Church were looking for a better way to live out their faith in their day-today lives. They realized that, if they lived near each other, they could offer each other more help, more fellowship, and closer friendships.

So, late in 1978, the members of the church began moving to the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. "A

lot of the members already lived in midtown, so we looked at the area pretty closely," said Margaret McKelroy. They decided on Vollintine-Evergreen because "the area had nice, affordable housing and the kids could walk to school. You know, VECA has been written up as one of the two successfully integrated neighborhoods, and that was important to us."

At that time, the church met for worship in the home of Troy and Pamela Mashburn. But even then, members of the church often looked at the Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian Church building and dreamed of having it for their own some day. "We even had parties there sometimes," said Mrs. McKelory. "It was in the middle of the neighborhood, a beautiful building, just the perfect size for us."

Over the next ten years, many things changed for the members of the church. The most dramatic change occurred in 1987, when the congregation became part of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, one of the most ancient Christian churches. At that time, the congregation changed its name to St. John Orthodox Church, and it began to meet at the Episcopal Student Center near Memphis State University.

But as St. John Orthodox Church grew, the Episcopal Student Center began to seem crowded. In March, St. John Orthodox bought the Lindsey Building, and the long-time members of the St. John congregation found themselves moving into the neighborhood once again. This time, they weren't moving families into new houses, but they were moving their church into a new home.

"We are as excited as we can be," said Father Troy Mashburn, pastor of the congregation. "The building is excellent for us, and it will adapt wonderfully to the Orthodox Christian worship. As people committed to the church being integral part of its neighborhood, this building is great because so many members live nearby. We look forward to being another positive presence in VECA. Our services are open to all, and we'd love for any who would like to visit to do so."

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## VECA NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

Our neighborhood's diversity of churches and congregations reflect our community. Almost every denomination can worship here. Some of the churches originated in the VECA area and others moved from other locations as their members moved and their needs increased.

Springdale United Methodist and McLean Baptist Churches are still at their original location. Springdale Methodist was built in 1870. McLean Baptist began in 1926, following a split and dissolution of another Baptist Church there. The Rev. Lloyd Barker was minister from 1960 to 1975. He was one of VECA's founders, and led the church into programs related to integration.

Lindsay Memorial United Presbyterian Church resulted from a merger of two churches in the early 1930's. The Building was built in 1927 by the members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church which had been at two prior locations. It is interesting to note that the name was changed to Lindsay Memorial because all of its former pastors were named Lindsay. It is now to become the home of St. John Orthodox Church. (see related article this issue)

Baron Hirsch was an important congregation for the neighborhood. It moved here from 4th and Washington in 1945. It gradually expanded its facility and was in the 1950's and 60's the site of many congregational and community events. Since 1977 all of its activities and services have gradually been moved to an east Memphis location. Baron Hirsch members reflected the trend of moving to the suburbs that affected all of our congregations. It was also affected by many families following the synagogues move in order to be in walking distance for Sabbath services.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1943, moving from 4th and Mill. By 1970 it had lost many members. Aggressive outreach increased membership greatly. Good Shepherd is an active church in the community.

Evergreen Presbyterian, First Lutheran and St. Terese have an extensive history of involvement in the community. Evergreen Presbyterian is the largest with long-standing ties to Rhodes College. It offers several programs to attract families and all age groups in and out of the congregational family. The United Lutheran or Peace Lutheran members came from all over the city. It was one of only four churches in its denomination in Memphis. It has housed several social service facilities over the years. St. Terese has been here since 1930. The church and school made a major contribution to the integration and stabilizing of

the VECA community. The school closed in 1986, but is now the home to Susanna Center of United Methodist Neighborhood Centers a program for preschoolers with special needs.

Springdale Church of Christ came into the community in 1978. The building was originally the Jackson Ave. Church of Christ. This congregation moved to Bartlett. The Firestone Church of Christ moved into the building, adopting the Springdale name. Most of the congregation live in the community or adjacent communities. Its membership has doubled since it moved to this location.

The Faith Temple is on the site of the old Gage mansion. Its congregation is essentially from outside of VECA. This group has had a history of struggle to maintain itself. The Open Door Bible Church is a young congregation, founded in 1954. However it is making great efforts to be active the in VECA community.

In spite of many demographic and other trends that have affected VECA, it can be seen that the community still offers a great diversity of faiths to meet the needs of our wonderfully diverse community.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

The Vollintine Evergreen Community Association would like to thank the following folks for joining or renewing their membership in February, March, and April. Special thanks to Saints Court for their generous membership and thanks to Christopher Stokes for his special membership contribution.

**RENEWALS**

Betty Carter, Ben & Lula Coffey, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dixon, J. F. and Velma Harlan, John & Ann Held, Jennifer Jenson & Rick Cartwright, Jas. & Juanell Lemon, Robert D. Lenzini, Mrs. Jerry G. Western, Mr. & Mrs. Clint Alford, Shirley J. Barber, J. Mack Bettis, Jr., Edward M. Bolton, Mrs. Louis F. Boyd,

Harper & Peggy Brewer, Martha H. Brown, John Buss, James and Debbie Cochran, Deborah Cole, Maggie Conway, Jane R. & T.J Conway, Mrs. Alex Cooper, Martha H. Cooper, William Criss & James Stevenson, Dan and Susanna Cullen, James & Debra Dale, Joe & Irene Dycus, James & Corinne Elliott, Tom or Susan Fagan, Sheldon & Lois Fingerett, Charles Fox and Mary Wilder, Gil and Betty Gilow, Frances Graham, Bernice Hardin & Margie Patterson, Julius Harrison, Virgil Hays & Martha Hays, Richard & Susan Helms, Ralph C. & Hazel M. Hon, John C. Hough, Jr., Kathleen Hudson, Jan & Jim Jamison, Morris & Annice Jennings, George & Helen Johnson, Craig and Kay Jordan, Kathy Junkin, Rob Keeler, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kessler, Gean P. Kidd, Tom King, Ron & Linda Kovach, Mike Ledgerwood, Fayanne Thorngate, Mark Liptrap, Troy and Pamela Mashburn, Tim & Deb Mashburn, Ruth, May Ronald, McDonald & Susan Penn, George and Winnie McKelvy, Nancy & Michael McMullan, Dr. & Mrs. Fred Neal, Bill Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, Nolan Kenneth and Joyce Peterson, Mrs. John H. Quinn, Frank T. Quinn, Virginia B. Rice, Frank & Barbara Ricks, Gerald & Carol Risher, Thad S. & Stephanie Rodda, Saints Courts Apartments, Steve and Jane Shelton, D. Stephen or Elaine Snyder, Robert & Judith Sohngen, Tedi Spotswood, Christopher Stokes, Mrs. Coleman F. Stoltz, David Tester, Linda K. Thomas, Katheryn Thomas, Marie Tracy, Liz Wilson, Thomas R. & Paula Wood, and Don Wylie, II.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Elmer & Maryland Harrison, Mrs. Ameera Pierini, Gary H. Guenther, Robert J. Ewing, Brad & Connie Austin, Edward & Gloriadean Porter, Jan Rochester, David & JoAnne Brown, Pete & Charlotte Swailes, Jerry & Cynthia Tatus, Michael & Dana Swailes, Alan & Cheryl Willis, Edward & Donna Glatt, Sharron & Tim Baker, James & Julia Winesberry, and Dixie L. Smith.

If you would like to be a member of VECA fill out this coupon and send it along with your \$7.50 dues to VECA at P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN. 38182-0011.

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## VECA TO MEET ABOUT CRIME

The VECA general meeting will be devoted to the topic of how Neighborhood Watch can reduce crime on your block.

The meeting will be held on May 21 at 7:30 at Nazareth Hall at Little Flower Church, 840 N. Dickinson. Look for the VECA signs. Nazareth Hall is just north of the corner of Jackson and Dickinson.

Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative program between neighbors and police. The neighbors on a block receive information from the police on security in the home and block. They also receive reports from police through their block representative on unusual crime problems in the area. The program encourages neighbors to communicate with each other and to report suspicious persons to the police. It is an encouragement to neighbors looking out for each other.

Representatives of the North and West Precincts, the Crime Prevention Bureau of the Police and successful neighborhood watch leaders will be at the meeting.

This is an important meeting. It provides a forum where you can learn more about a Neighborhood Watch on your block. There are also a number of VECA blocks which started programs long ago with good intentions, but did not carry forward with an effort. This meeting is a good time for these inactive groups to join us.

Let's also have participants in existing programs throughout the neighborhood to join us and tell us what Neighborhood Watch is doing for their street.

Call the VECA Hotline at 276-1066 if you would like a ride to this meeting.

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### 1914 JACKSON UPDATE

This property has a problem for the neighborhood for many years and has involved two court hearings. The sales option on this property has expired and Karen Kinard still retains title to this property.

The VECA Housing Committee has taken three actions.

1. The City's Housing Improvement Department has been asked to bring this case to court once again.
2. The high weeds on the property have been reported to the Health Department.
3. The City Attorney, at VECA's request, has agreed to collect the fine which was assessed against Kinard. In fact they are making this a test case for their new collection procedures.

The property will be in court again. In order to make officials aware of VECA's interest, it is important to have you the neighbors be in court to express your concern by your presence. Please call the VECA Hotline at 276-1066 if you would like to be informed of the date of the court hearing.

### WEEDS AND YARD SALES

A city ordinance requires property owners to keep their lots from becoming overgrown with weeds. Last summer was a greater problem than usual for high weeds in VECA.

We will have to be more vigilant this year in preventing the reoccurrence of the problem. If a neighbor's grass reaches 10 inches, it should be reported to the Mayor's Action Center at 576-6500 or the VECA Hotline at 276-1066. The report should accurately indicate the address of the house. The houses on either side of vacant lots should be indicated in a report.

Al Taylor of the Health Department, which is in charge of investigating residential lots indicates that he sends an inspector within three days of the report reaching his office. Vacant lot complaints go to the General Services administration which may have to cut the lot and send the bill to the owner. However, General Service has only limited numbers of mowers and cannot quickly cut all the offending households.

The continuing yard sales on Jackson from Watkins to Belvedere are becoming a problem and are also illegal. If you see a yard sale, call in the address and date to the VECA Hotline at 276-1066.

### HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee is going to survey the neighborhood to identify houses that need painting this summer. The owners will be given a brochure providing instructions and reasons for painting a house. Painting is important since it prevents deterioration and more expensive

damage to the exterior of the house.

The committee will also be meeting the City Housing Inspector for the area to communicate its concern and obtain information on his concerns. This is an excellent opportunity for city agency and neighborhood to get to know each other.

### PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(E.L.C.A)

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Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Rev. James M. Duke III, Pastor

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### GARDENING CORNER

As promised last time, we are offering the conclusion to the article on planting and maintenance.

#### 3. Application of time release fertilizer

When planting shrubs and trees, a small amount of time release fertilizer mixed in with the organic soil conditioner vastly increases foliar and root growth. This quickened plant growth improves plant hardiness to drought and temperature extremes.

#### 4. Mulching of the plant

A mulch dish to retain water and prevent excessive soil drying is good. A .50 inch layer of pine or hardwood bark mulch should be applied over the planting hole and a 4-9 inch mulch dish (donut) should surround the plant just outside the planting hole. This detail greatly improves the visual appearance of the planting as well as reducing plant attrition.

#### 5. Staking

Staking of any plant which is prone to shifting in the wind is good. The staking of trees and large shrubs prevents wind shifting which can cause root damage and poor top development. The staking used will vary according to the type of form the plant has, but generally it consists of: 3 vertical wood stakes driven into the ground at the edge of the mulch dish, 3 pieces of light gauge wire to connect the stakes to the trunk of the tree, and three 6-inch pieces of rubber hose (an old garden hose can be cut up) to thread the wire through so as not to scar the tree trunk.

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To VECA President

**Julie Borys**

for being named

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VECA HOTLINE : 276-1066

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