

# The Evergreen News

DO NOT PUT IN MAILBOXES

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

P.O. BOX 12011 Memphis, TN 38182-0011

Volume XVI, Number 8, March 1991

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

**VECA MEETING  
"AIR YOUR CONCERNS"  
MARCH 18TH  
7:30 P.M.  
840 DICKINSON**

On Monday, March 18, 1991 you will have the opportunity to "air your concerns", at the VECA general membership meeting. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at 840 Dickinson (Nazareth Hall, behind St. Therese Church). We have invited representatives from various city and county agencies, including the Mayor's Action Center, police department, county assessors office, construction code enforcement, health department, and housing improvement.

This will be a great chance to get your questions answered and learn how you can work with these officials. We will also celebrate some of our past successes and highlight some of our current work. Be there and be informed.



Bungalow Style on Belvedere

## WE'VE GOT STYLE - II

by Julia Baker

"THE BUNGALOW," even the name sounds romantic somehow. Some architectural historians use the term "bungaloid," but that sounds rather cold for a home style that was the 1900's equivalent of the pioneer log cabin.

Bungalows were particularly popular with the working class folks in Memphis and other growing cities throughout the U.S. from 1890 to around 1940. Contractors took liberties with the style—they were built of wood, brick or concrete blocks. Some were clapboarded while others were stuccoed or shingled. They were usually built on fairly narrow lots, but the rather modest structures made up in depth what they lacked in height.

They were planned for both outdoor and indoor living, with high ceilings and tall windows for good air circulation in the hot summers before air conditioning. My own little 1200 sq. foot bungalow has 25 tall windows! The traditional floor plan had two or three bedrooms, a large living room, separate dining room and a breakfast room downstairs, and an extra bedroom and storage in the "camelback" style upstairs. Kitchens were an adequate size for modern conveniences of the day—a gas stove and an ice box, and there was usually a walk-in butler pantry.

On the exterior, open verandas were supported at each end by two tapering columns or piers, with a low balustrade enclosing the side and front. Today, many of the verandas have been enclosed to gain extra living space, but just as many still have porch swings to enjoy watching the world go by in the spring, summer and fall, just as our grandparents did. By the 20's, many of the bungalows were built with porte cocheres as extensions of the verandas. Porte cochere is a \$10 word for what we call a carport today.

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## WE'VE GOT STYLE - II continued

Many of us grew up in bungalows, or our parents did. Verandas were often screened back in the 20's, 30's, and 40's as protection from malaria causing mosquitoes. My mom and dad both have "fond?" memories as children of sleeping on the veranda on hot summer nights, or on pallets in the living room next to the open front door with the screened door closed. Seems many homes were "one fan homes" back then, and parents got priority on the oscillating fan in the heat of the night.

## HOME PLACES

The stucco bungalow at 1442 Faxon was built before 1915 for the Wyckoff and Birmingham families. It was the second home in that area, and was used originally as a summer retreat and hunting lodge. The area was out in the country, on a dirt road that dead-ended at a bayou where Faxon, Tutwiler and Stone-wall now awkwardly intersect. James Cochran's granddad, C. R. Cochran, purchased the home in 1920, just before James' dad, C.P., was born. Between 1923-1928, the bayou was filled in, streets were paved, street car tracks and gas street lamps were in, and other homes were being built.

In 1975, James purchased the home after the death of his grandparents and great-grandmother, and began his restorations, paying close attention to every detail. He has spent the last sixteen years, stripping, sanding, tearing down and building up. What we see today is a classic "craftsman" bungalow, restored even to its original trim and stucco colors on the exterior.

The original stairway was moved and the attic was converted to a charming, 900 sq. ft. master bedroom suite and sitting room with a pullman type kitchen. A 500 lb., 9 ft. tall, coppered plate glass and mahogany bay window was installed on the landing of the stairway, which was based on Frank Lloyd Wright's wysteria design. Four skylights were installed in the vaulted stairway ceiling which reflect the light from a 1920's French Deco chandelier, and a deck was added which overlooks the gardens in the rear. Deco wall fixtures for the sitting room and bedroom were designed and constructed by James.

The main dining room features a large brass chandelier which James salvaged from the old Pea-

body Hotel, and oil paintings of his great-great-grandparents and their two daughters, which were saved during the Civil War (which is a very interesting story in itself).

James has etched several windows in his home, including one in memory of his grandmother, Anita Cochran, who was an avid rose gardener. Three panes in the dining room windows have been etched with roses.

The home is still under renovation, with the kitchen and basement game room on the drawing board. The Cochran home is so charming, I hope it will be included in a home tour of the VECA area at some future date.

James is a talented, architectural designer and is as handy as Bob Vila at just about everything having to do with "old home" restorations. His wife, Debbie, is a talented interior designer-so you can imagine what the two of them have created together.

James and his wife are raising their two sons, Christopher and Michael, in the old family home, which has seen five generations of the same family-so far.



1442 Faxon Circa 1920

700 N. AVALON, owned by Tim and Sharron Baker, is a fine example of the red brick, camelback bungalow, with strong stone columns supporting the veranda and porte cochere. This home was built in 1925, apparently by a well-to-do family, as there was a servants' quarters built in the rear, which Tim and Sharron now use as a guest house. The servants could be called by the man or lady of the house by pressing a button strategically laid in the floor of the dining room at the head of the table.

This home also features a large sun parlor, through an arched opening off the living room, which was original to the house. Sun parlors were considered luxuries before the depression, and were unheard

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## WE'VE GOT STYLE - II continued

of after. Tim and Sharron are both musically inclined, as is their 2-1/2 year old son, Jordan, and the room is now used as the Baker music room.

The Bakers purchased the home from the Apple family, an extension of the Hester/Doak family which had owned the home since around 1930. Binford Hester, who worked for Federal Compress, and his sister, Myrtle Hester Doak, lived there, along with their chauffeur, Abe, and his wife, who served as cook and maid. Social visiting was in vogue in those slower-paced days, and Mr. Hester and Ms. Doak were enthusiastic party givers. Among their friends, and a frequent dinner guest, was Mayor E. H. Crump. Mary Quinn, daughter of Myrtle Doak, moved in with her Mom in 1958 and lived there until her death in 1986.

Many interesting examples of the bungalow style can be found through the VECA area. Our bungalows share common characteristics, but each is as unique as the families who have lived in them. They are familiar to all of us, and like cinnamon toast and hot chocolate, the bungalow has a comforting, safe, warm feel to it.

THANKS to the Cochran and the Bakers for sharing information on their homes. Their homes are located in the Speedway Terrace and University Park subdivisions. Both areas are seeing a lot of interest by prospective home buyers, drawn by the quiet areas, apparent pride of ownership in the neighborhoods, and the strength of VECA.

If you would like to share your home's history, please call the VECA Hotline and leave a message for me. I'd like to interview you.

If you would like to join our committee for Historic Preservation or Conservation, please call the VECA Hotline, or send your name, address and phone number to VECA, Historic Preservation or Conservation Committee, P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN, 38182-0011. We have a lot of fun, interesting, important work to do to earn the historic designation. We need neighborhood captains, surveyors, and data collectors.

Don't assume someone else will handle it all. Show your pride in your home and in your neighborhood. Please say "YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!"

## VECA LITTER CONTROL

by Thomas K. Fagan

Several days each week, I take a walk in the vicinity of the Vollintine-Trezevant-North Parkway-McLean sector of VECA. Often, I take a bag and pick up litter along the way. I typically get two or three shopping sacks of trash each outing! If you live near a busy VECA intersection, you know the problem. Litter tends to gather in areas that are already littered, dimly-lit at night, have a lot of shrubs near the road, near businesses, rental properties, and schools, the old railroad right-of-way, and convenient thru streets, like Tutwiler; and it tends to radiate from schools and businesses especially those that sell food. Nearby residences and businesses are also victims; Tutwiler behind Snowden School is well littered. Snowden School can be a major source of litter and over the past summer, it was unsightly. Its principal has worked to clean up the grounds, but the solution is not simple. Construction crews renovating the buildings, parents dropping off and picking up their children, and transients driving through on Tutwiler, McLean and

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**VECA LITTER CONTROL continued-**

North Parkway contribute to the school's litter. Rhodes College is surprisingly clean, both on and near the campus. Also, the Cotton Council and Parkway House regularly pick up litter and remain clean. In contrast, much of the perimeter of Hein Park is a disgrace!

Litter is a people problem: someone deposits it and someone else picks it up. While you can work to minimize the former, you can control the latter. Cans, quart beer bottles, personal hygiene items and baby diapers, syringes, automotive parts and tools, coathangers, clothes, tires, tools, magazines, newspapers, pencils, boards, sunglasses: if it fits out the window, it has been deposited in VECA by someone! Try the following:

1. If you see a car from which litter is thrown, report the vehicle type, license plate, location and time of day to the City Beautiful Commission, phone 52-CLEAN. The Commission will send the vehicle owner a letter and a litterbag.
2. If school children are littering, report them to the school principal. Send the principal papers you find which have the student's name on them and ask that the student be reprimanded for littering the neighborhood.
3. Pick up the litter in your yard and street gutter; don't assume someone else will do it for you and don't wait for a rain to wash it into someone else's neighborhood.
4. Wrap your trash in bags so when it is picked up, it doesn't spill outside the garbage truck and blow all over the neighborhood. If you throw out boxes with styrofoam packing in them, seal them shut!
5. If you have children in school, tell them not to buy items at school or nearby businesses that lead to littering while being eaten on the way home.

6. Stop littering VECA. Some of the litter in VECA is our own.

7. Complain to businesses, or quit patronizing businesses that sell the items you see littering VECA. And, if their grounds are littered, report them to City Beautiful. The cardboard handles with "baggies" stapled to them, plastic straps and large rubberbands strewn in the neighborhood are from newspaper deliverers. Mail them to the circulation manager of the Commercial Appeal and tell that person you intend to drop the paper if the littering persists.

8. When you see a good example of cleanliness, reinforce it. Tell the store manager, resident, school principal, etc., how nice the grounds look.

9. If you walk for exercise, try taking a bag along and picking up trash. You can easily dispose of it along the way in one of the many trash baskets in the VECA neighborhood.

Let's face it, VECA is not the romantic, clean island of Midtown often painted in the media. We have a big city litter problem and we need to take responsible action. If we want our neighborhood cleaner, we must report the littering we observe and take personal responsibility to clean up the mess others have made. If others see us picking up the litter, they will be much less likely to deposit it. Set an example and watch the favorable results.



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**FENCE ME IN**  
BY Dottie Sacheritz

VECA residents have been watching construction of the fence around the Rhodes College campus. Now that it is finished, we talked with Mr. David Harlow, Executive Vice President, who has administrative responsibility for security. Dr. Daughdrill, President of the school, had been concerned about this issue for several years. The final trigger was several car break-ins and one car theft at gun-point. They are well aware that no measure is foolproof. Young people tend to minimize risks and feel somewhat invulnerable. The school has orientations to address this, offers escort services, etc., which students have tended not to use. So the fence is seen as one part of a program to help students and their parents feel more secure and to reduce incidents. Lighting will also be improved throughout the campus.

The \$450,000 fence was designed by Met Crump Architects and constructed by Alan O'Hara. Its design and color were selected to fit in esthetically without closing off the campus from its neighbors with its heavy walls. Rhodes wants to be a good neighbor and encourages neighborhood residents to

use the campus. Many of the internal fences will come down. A jogging trail will be built inside the fence for general use. The northwest corner at Charles Place will be cleaned up. There may be a picnic area there.

It is expected that the gate on University at Snowden will always be open, with guards in the gatehouse from around 9:00 pm to 6:00 am. The other gates will be open from early morning until sunset, and for one hour after special evening events. They will be open on weekends, except for the North Parkway entrance.

Mr. Harlow commented that in the first two weeks of 1990, there had been three car thefts, in contrast to none this year. Mr. Ralph Hatley started the week of January 15 as the new Director of Safety and Security. He formerly taught at CBHS and has also run the training of officers at the Police Academy. He will handle general safety issues as well as train the campus security staff.

Rhodes wants us to feel free to walk and jog around the area. Mr. Harlow says that he will welcome calls at 726-3730. We should not hesitate to express any questions or concerns.

**RHODES COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM**

Rhodes will be offering summer activities to keep everyone outside and in shape. Summer memberships to the swimming pool and tennis courts are available; in addition, there will be swimming lessons and tennis lessons offered. Also, for kids, there will be sports camps - baseball, basketball, football, and tennis. Rhodes offers it all ! For more information, contact the Rhodes Athletic department at 726-3940. Julie Bowen is the pool director.

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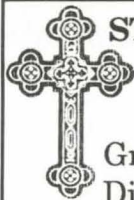
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