

THE EVERGREEN NEWS

paper Sponsored by Vollintine * Evergreen Community Action Association



FOUR MORE YEARS

It's hard for us to believe that this issue is marked "Volume V." It doesn't really seem four years since that January night when the first issue was typed and posted (and re-typed, thanks to MARTHA EDWARDS). On occasion of this fourth anniversary then, let us pause to thank our readers, in the thousands, we hope, for their kind attention to our neighborhood bulletins and essays and to thank our carriers and staff in the hundreds, literally, who produce and distribute.

Several of the neighborhood institutions both profit and non-profit have been generous in their support, usually through the efforts of interested individuals. And it has been gratifying to see these institutions - merchants, churches, synagogue, Southwestern - all continue to succeed in their respective endeavors.

Although the problem that originally prompted the establishment of the News has been for the most part resolved, the paper has not lost its "raison d'etre." Housing turnover is not the pressing issue it was four years ago but in examining our plight others have been uncovered. Rezoning threats, traffic conditions, environmental matters, neighborhood schools - all are issues aired by the News. Now the V/E Community has the opportunity to take the offensive with the development of a neighborhood plan. And we hope the News can continue to keep you informed as to efforts underway to chart our community's future.

Our goal has been to serve as a newspaper for the whole neighborhood, not as a mouthpiece for the VECCA organization but as an independent voice heartily endorsing VECCA's objective of maintaining a stable biracial community with all the amenities. We hesitate to judge how well we've served that goal, but note only that the goal is still before us and we would like your help in two areas. First, keep us informed on what's going on - school news, church news, newcomers, promotions, retirements, births and marriages (278-2210). Second, offer a word of encouragement to the person who

delivers the News to your door. Alas, some blocks are not covered regularly and maybe you could help in deliveries or suggest someone who can (278-2668).

We, the carriers and staff, pledge to help keep the communication lines open. To us, communication means reporting what people are doing and thinking, with an emphasis on the good and the constructive. We are looking forward to four more years of the News.

YWCA North

A director has been named, a facility selected and a program planned. Now the only thing lacking is the grand opening and some members. And the new YWCA branch in the V/E community will take care of the first on January 7, 8 and 9. At this time registration will take place and programs announced as the branch located in First United Lutheran Church (Jackson at Willett) opens its doors for the first time.

BETTY AMMONS, director of the North branch, has scheduled a host of activities, many led by community residents, for all age groups. For children dance classes (tap, jazz, acrobatic, etc.) will be offered along with after school arts and crafts classes. For those high school and older mixed media art sessions will be held (afternoons and evenings) where qualified instructors can coach participants in their chosen medium. Sliminastics classes will be led by MARTHA PIPKIN, while the self-defense class may appeal to other individuals. Activities now being organized include knitting/crocheting, yoga and Black arts for youth.

In addition Family Service of Memphis will perform a series of "Plays for Living" every Tuesday night in February.

In order to participate in the variety of activities planned



The next VECCA meeting will be on January 20 at 7:30 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church. Election of 1975 officers will be held.

one must become a "Y" member. Memberships cost \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. Many activities are free to members while others may carry a nominal fee. Registration hours will be 9-1 (Tuesday), 12-5 (Wednesday) and 4-8 (Thursday). Since the branch's telephone is not yet installed further information can be obtained by calling the main "Y" at 527-9486.

Neighbors Plan

The New Year is a good time for making resolutions and plans. VECAA's neighbors to the south are busy preparing for the year's coming activities. Both the Central Gardens Area and the Mid-Memphis Improvement Association are developing goals for the conservation of their neighborhoods.

The Central Gardens Area covers 62 blocks bounded by Watkins, Union, Barksdale, Lamar and the L&N Railroad. The area forms a solid residential core with office, commercial and institutional uses along its borders.

With the aid of William S. Pollard Consultants, Inc., the Gardens Association has developed a neighborhood improvement plan. Recommendations for land use, transportation, community facilities and urban design soon will be submitted to the City Council for implementation, according to CGAA president TOM DYER.

Amending the existing zoning from duplex to single family is the primary land use consideration offered by the planners. They also suggest buffering single family uses from more intensive uses on the periphery. Transportation proposals recognize the need to keep local streets for local traffic. They suggest amending the Major Street Plan to redesignate several by-ways. Also recommended is a system of bike lanes, closing streets to vehicular traffic, and the preservation of designated scenic drives.

Community facilities include parks, schools and libraries. The Association suggests that a new committee be established to work with the Memphis Park Commission and Board of Education to develop these facilities. An interesting recommendation is the closing of alleys for conversion into children's playgrounds. Urban design proposals include gates and designated entrance points into the Central Gardens area and distinctive street lighting and furniture.

Mid-Memphis Improvement Association's new president, ROY REYNOLDS, anticipates similar challenges in the area bounded by Watkins, No. Parkway, E. Parkway and Madison. Commercial encroachment is the greatest problem the area faces according to Roy. A MMIA committee is working actively to prepare an improvement plan similar to the Garden's.

With large treed lots, convenience to downtown, and amenities such as Overton Park and Overton Square mid-town Memphis should be stronger than ever in 1975. The three associations have made plans to meet together to discuss mutual

problems and opportunities and the Memphis-Shelby County Planning Commission has begun work on its Mid-Town Planning District Study. Hopefully the three neighborhood associations can present a united front to maintain mid-town as a great place to live.

Dear Editor...

Several weeks ago a Mr. X telephoned me on a Sunday morning to complain that the Evergreen News was not being honest in its reporting of conditions in our area. I am writing to him via the News since he refused to identify himself and he hung up without completing the conversation. He seemed to believe that the editors, reporters and VECAA members are blind to problems that exist here and in every section of our city and nation.

During the time of VECAA's existence many problems have been dealt with and with notable success. These have been in the areas of zoning, street modifications, the improvement of our schools, blockbusting by real estate agents, etc. However, we all know that the work of maintaining a stable community is not completed. For this reason, as was announced last month, a Long Range Planning Committee has been established to develop an overall plan for this area—which means looking at our assets and our liabilities as well as the needs and concerns of residents in developing and implementing the plan.

Any and all residents, including Mr. X, are urged to participate by serving on one of the task forces of the committee or by providing ideas or suggestions. Send me your name, address and phone number if you wish to be a task force member or if you want to make suggestions.

Mr. X seemed concerned particularly about the rising crime rate, apparently believing it to be higher here than in other areas. While I do not believe he is correct, crime in our community has risen as it has all over the city and the nation, and one task force, Public Safety, will address itself to this problem in the Vollintine-Evergreen community.

Finally, it does not help any of us if people have ideas but are not willing to share their thoughts and suggestions nor does it help to complain anonymously. The Long Range Planning Committee and task force members will be happy to hear from any resident.

Margaret Dichtel
Chairman, Long Range
Planning Committee
893 Oakmont Place

Address all correspondence to: The Evergreen News, 1906 Mignon Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107.

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Meet The Neighbors

by Rick Thomas

Representative of the young professionals moving into the V/E Community are AUBREY and PATRICIA HOWARD of 884 Sheridan Place. Both Memphians, Aubrey is associate director of Shelby County Intergovernmental Coordination Department, and Pat is administrative assistant at Girl's Club.

The Howards first became familiar with the neighborhood as students at Southwestern and since their marriage four years ago have lived nearby - on Biggs and on North Parkway. They moved in on Sheridan in 1972.

At Southwestern Aubrey majored in communication arts while Pat studied sociology and anthropology. Aubrey, who worked for five years on leukemia research, was active in athletics there playing football and baseball and still does a little coaching and recruiting for the Lynx. He has maintained athletics as his hobby and participates in a variety of sports as well as officiating at high school football games. He also keeps busy riding his giant - but amazingly quiet-Honda 750 motorcycle and preparing income tax returns.

While claiming not to have done any major remodeling on their house, Pat admits to personally crafting half of the furniture and most of the accessories found there. Many people make furniture out of wire spools and crates but few have developed it into the art she has. Combining this scrap wood with fabrics and other materials she transforms them into attractive - and sturdy - tables and bookcases. Pat also made the bedspreads and most of the draperies. Not being satisfied with this she completed weavings and tapestries for the walls, formed ceramic and pottery pieces for walls and shelves, and made the candles found in nearly every room. She also collects driftwood which she combines with dried flowers for an outdoors touch. When she gets through with this she makes all her clothes and all of her jewelry.

Ever since Southwestern the Howards have favored the neighborhood as a place to live. They especially like the central location and the quietness of the area. If you see a couple riding a motorcycle carrying a bunch of scrap lumber, rest assured that it's only Aubrey and Pat returning from the furniture store.

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association
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Around The Neighborhood

Longtime neighborhood residents BERLYNN and PATSY RIZER finally took the plunge and have purchased a home. The Rizers, with daughter DANA, 13, and son BRYAN, 11, moved last week to 1931 Lyndale. The Rizers are active in church and PTA; Mr. Rizer is art director and sales manager for Allied Graphics.

Welcome to CHARLES and PRISCILLA TIMS who moved from Whitehaven to 316 N. McNeil. The Tims are originally from Arkansas and are both certified teachers. Mr. Tims is a safety engineer with Aetna Casualty. Their children are RANDY, 12, and TRACY, 10, students at Snowden, and DOUG, 8, and DAVEY, 5, students at Vollentine. The Tims are now delivering the Evergreen News on McNeil south of Overton Park.

Newly recruited to deliver the Evergreen News in the northeast district of the neighborhood are Dr. MARGARET DICHTEL of 893 Oakmont, covering Oakmont between Vollentine and Hallwood, and JEFF Mc-

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CASKILL of 2107 Hallwood, who covers his street between University and Vellentine. Dr. Dichtel, former VECAA chairman, is a social worker with Family Service. Jeff is a student at Snowden School.

Welcome to FRANK KELLER who recently bought the home at 503 N. McNeil. Mr. Keller is a native Memphian and graduated from Christian Brothers College with a degree in electrical engineering. He works in the Medical Physics Laboratory at the U-T Center for Health Sciences.

Congratulations to PAT GOAD of 520 N. McNeil who received the Master of Music degree in December from Memphis State. Pat teaches piano for Pilant Studios and is organist at McLean Baptist Church.

GEORGE P. BRADFUTE of 513 Stonewall is in Moscow for a Russian language seminar with a group of students from Georgetown College. George is a recent graduate of Central High.

Two of the newest residents of the V/E community are twins RACHEL and REBECCA JAMISON of 866 Sheridan. They were born December 15 to JAMES E. and JAN JAMISON. Mrs. Jamison is a social worker at Les Passees and Mr. Jamison teaches mathematics at Memphis State.

Neighborhood Sports

A V/E family was recently honored at Central High School when the number 23 was retired. Three neighborhood brothers had worn the number in succession. They are JOE, JOHN and JEFF LaBUE of 1770 Tutwiler. For the last nine football seasons Central High has fielded a LaBue—Joe and John as running backs and Jeff as a tight end. All three were captains and All-Memphis prep athletics. Jeff, who graduates this year, hopes to follow his older brothers to the University of Alabama.

On another football front, Southwestern, despite recording an average 3-3-3 season, had some trophies to show for its efforts. The Lynxcats were second in the nation in defense in their NCAA division and placed 14 players on the College Athletic Conference all-star team.

In still other sporting news, six Cypress Junior High students were awarded national honors. Members of the girls' track and field team, each was certified as a national record holder in the girls' division. DOROTHY TAYLOR broke the existing shot-put and discus records while JILL FORD set a new 80-yard hurdle time. The 440-yard relay record was broken by JOYCE PARROT, ANITA BLAKE, JENNIE CLARK and KIM TAYLOR. Coach HAROLD E. BUEHLER heads the program at Cypress.



Despite the problems faced by biracial communities like ours, some hope can be taken from the youngsters. Neighborhood girls on Rainbow Circle (top) compare notes on doll-care while future athletes (bottom) enjoy sandlot football on Sheridan.

New Vocal Group

A new singing group is currently being organized at McLean Baptist Church. BERT BRIXEY, music director, says that the chorus of men and women will sing standard pop tunes such as "Moonlight in Vermont", "Begin the Beguine", "Colorado Trail", "Spinning Wheel", "September Song", "Autumn Leaves" and many others.

Membership is open to anyone in Memphis 18 years and older after an audition. Rehearsals will be at McLean Baptist Church on Thursday evenings at 7:30. Those interested in an audition should call 274-3766.

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